

Two U.S. marines die in Saudi Arabia

SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — Two U.S. marines have died in separate incidents, one while exercising with a group and the other from a suspected brain aneurysm, military officials said Wednesday. Both deaths occurred Monday. Names were withheld pending notification of next of kin, and officials said the deaths were being investigated but appeared to be from natural causes. According to a statement, a marine from the assault ship USS Iwa Jimo died of a presumed heart attack after collapsing while participating in group physical fitness training in Bahrain. A medical response team was unable to revive the marine. A second statement said a marine died of a presumed ruptured aneurysm in the brain. He was medically evacuated to the USNS Comfort after complaining of nausea, diarrhea and headaches. He was assigned to the 1st battalion, 2nd marine regiment from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. On Sunday, an army soldier serving with Bravo Co. of the 721st maintenance support battalion was killed when the tractor-trailer truck he was driving overturned.

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Iran: Iraqi retreat harmful

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Wednesday an Iraqi retreat from Kuwait under American pressure was against Muslim interests. But Tehran Radio said a resolution of the crisis on Iraqi terms would also upset the strategic balance in the region and create worries for Iran. "Iraq's persistence in staying in Kuwait is a mistake," the radio quoted Rafsanjani as telling a group of visiting officials of foreign Islamic groups. "It would harm Muslim interests, help imperialism and increase the vanity of arrogance if it is established that the Iraqis will leave Kuwait under American pressure," he said. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati flew to Ankara Wednesday to discuss the Gulf crisis with Turkish officials. "If Iraq is able to untangle itself (from the crisis) in the way it wants, the strategic balance in the region would be upset, and this definitely rouse Iran's and Turkey's sensitivity," Tehran Radio said in a commentary on Velayati's talks in Ankara. War or an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal were both unlikely, the radio said, "highlighting the need to reach a... compromise."

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German deputy begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Hans-Juergen Wischniewski, a member of the German parliament and chairman of the Middle East committee of Socialist International, arrived in Amman Wednesday on a several-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on ways to solve the Gulf crisis peacefully. Wischniewski was received in the airport by the head of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry, Khaled Obeidat, and the German chargé d'affaires in Amman. The German parliamentarian will leave for Iraq after his visit to Jordan.

Arafat: Aid to intifada has dried up

TUNIS (R) — Financial contributions to the Palestinian uprising have dried up since July and the Gulf crisis has cost Palestinians \$10.5 billion, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in the Libyan capital Tripoli. Arafat told a seminar: "Contributions disappeared overnight. Since July not a penny has arrived to support the intifada of the Palestinian people. Our people have lost \$10.5 billion as a result of the Gulf crisis. Palestinians in the Gulf used to send \$1.4 billion to their families in the occupied territories and most of this has stopped." The seminar took place from Dec. 8 to 10 and Arafat's speech was reported by the Palestinian news agency WAFA Wednesday.

Iran, Iraq restore air traffic contacts

NICOSIA (AP) — Radio and telephone communications between air control towers in Iran and Iraq will resume soon, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Wednesday. The agency said control towers in the Iranian city of Abadan and in Basra, in southern Iraq, will cooperate to assist aircraft flying to the two countries. Communications between the two countries were severed during the 1980-88 war, which was finally resolved last August. Agreement to restart communications was reached during the current visit to Iran by the head of Iraq's civil aviation organization, Tariq Saidi, IRNA said.

Rushdie backs Mideast linkage

WASHINGTON (R) — British author Salman Rushdie said Tuesday a solution to the Iraq-Kuwait crisis should be matched by a settling of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In a live television interview conducted in an undisclosed location, Rushdie said there was no need to link the Kuwaiti and Palestinian issues at the moment. But he added: "Once the Kuwait issue is solved... many people throughout the world feel there must be a solution to the Palestinian issue."

Prince Sultan holds talks in UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) — Saudi Arabia's defense minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, held talks Wednesday with the president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan. Informed sources said the talks dealt with efforts by Saudi Arabia to solve the Kuwait crisis on the basis of United Nations resolutions.

Syria, Egypt enhance relations

CAIRO (AP) — Syria and Egypt signed five cooperation agreements Wednesday, further bolstering relations resumed a year ago after a 12-year rupture. The signing climaxed a three-day official visit by Syrian Premier Mahmoud Zoubi. He and Atef Sedki, his Egyptian counterpart, co-chaired a meeting of a committee formed this year to develop their ties. One accord provides for economic and technical cooperation. The text was not made public but Egyptian officials said it called for reciprocal investments and joint ventures as well as projects involving the two countries and others. The other agreements covered cooperation in tourism, railways and road and sea transport.

Jordan, Algeria urge backers of war to reconsider stand

King reiterates call for international conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday paid tribute to Algerian President Chadli Benjedid's efforts to pave the ground for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis and renewed Jordan's call for U.N.-sponsored international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Speaking at Amman airport after bidding farewell to President Benjedid, the King described his talks with the Algerian leader as a continuation of the joint efforts designed to safeguard Arab Nation's higher interests and to serve the future Arab generations.

He told reporters that his talks with Benjedid would continue

with a view to achieving a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. The talks, he said, revealed that Jordan and Algeria hold identical views with regard to the crisis and steps to be taken to settle that issue.

An Arab-Arab dialogue, the King said, should take place since it was impossible to leave matters as they are now. "Benjedid's efforts work in close coordination with those of Jordan, and follow the same lines... to achieve an Arab-Arab dialogue," the King said.

The Algerian president was seeking to crystallize a unified Arab stand to reach a settlement because it is unreasonable to see Arabs not following the example

of other parties in opening dialogues to attain a peaceful settlement, the King said.

In reply to a question about Jordan's efforts, King Hussein said: "We have tried right from the start to exert mediation efforts to solve the crisis and we will not hesitate to exert further efforts to encourage and back an Arab-Arab dialogue to reach a solution."

The King expressed hope that "the Arabs will make direct contacts among themselves to pave the way for a successful dialogue, but we have to wait and see the outcome of the current efforts."

King Hussein said the present circumstances call for the con-

vening of an international conference to be held under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council member states and with the participation of all parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In reply to a question the King described Benjedid's visit as a most welcome visit. "I have always found in him a concerned Arab leader, concerned for Arab peoples and their future. We had the chance to discuss all the developments and we found

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Benjedid takes mission to Iraq; Saudis say no visit set

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid met with President Saddam Hussein Wednesday in a new Arab mediation effort to head off war over Kuwait.

The talks began immediately after Benjedid's arrival from Amman, where he discussed with His Majesty King Hussein the prospects of arranging a summit meeting between Sad-

U.S. accuses Iraq of blocking agreement on dates for talks

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Wednesday accused Iraq of blocking agreement on the dates of high-level talks billed by Secretary of State James Baker as the "last best chance for peace" in the Gulf crisis.

Richard Boucher said Iraq was still insisting that Baker come to Baghdad to meet President Saddam Hussein Jan. 12.

The United States has rejected the proposal because it says it is too close to the Jan. 15

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Italy: Israel should be treated like Iraq

PARIS (Agencies) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said in an interview published Wednesday that European policy in the Gulf should be limited to securing Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Europe should not try to remove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power or reduce his military arsenal, he told the Paris daily Le Monde in an interview published ahead of this week's European Community (EC) summit in Rome.

Asked about EC intentions in the Gulf, De Michelis said: "One could have three objectives: The simple application of U.N. resolutions, the elimination of the Iraqi arsenal or the elimination of Saddam Hussein himself."

"Even if the last two points are understandable, they are not the community's order of the day. The sole task of European military forces in the Gulf is to apply the resolutions of the United Nations (allowing force to be used if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait by Jan. 15). Nothing else," he said.

"Otherwise, one would have to attack all the dictators on earth and reduce all major arsenals by military means," the Italian foreign minister said.

The 12-nation EC has asked him to explain Europe's Gulf policy to Iraqi Foreign Minister

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Israeli army kills Palestinian teenager

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a teenage Palestinian girl and Arabs stoned Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens' convoy during clashes in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, residents said.

Palestinians said Ahlam Ibrahim Ayed, 16, was shot in the head after Israeli troops raided the village of Bidya near Nablus to make arrests.

She was dead on arrival at hospital and residents buried her body before the army imposed a curfew on the village.

Further south, Palestinians

threw stones at a military convoy escorting Arens near the West Bank town of Jericho in the Jordan Valley, witnesses said.

They said the army arrested two 10-year-old Palestinian children after the window of an army jeep was smashed.

The Israeli army has deployed snipers to shoot at Palestinians stonethrowers.

Yossi Sarid, a left-wing member of parliament's powerful foreign affairs and defence committee, said Tuesday that marksmen safely out of range of pro-

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U.S. continues to fight U.N. resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States Wednesday fought language endorsing a Mideast peace conference that it contends would turn a Security Council resolution into a concession to Iraq.

A vote on the resolution has been put off six times in a week, and could be delayed again Wednesday.

The situation became more complicated Wednesday when France announced it could not support any resolution that did not contain the call for a peace conference.

The Yemeni ambassador, who is also the council president, dismissed the possibility that endorsement of a conference would be taken out of the resolution and put in a separate, non-binding statement from the

council president. "That has been a suggestion, but we have not moved an inch," said Yemeni Ambassador Abdallah Saleh Al Ashtal, who co-sponsored the resolution.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said no compromise had been reached.

The resolution closely parallels the U.S. stance in support of a peace conference "at an appropriate time," but officials have said they would have to veto the resolution now because it appears to link the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with the Gulf crisis.

But the United States says it also fears a veto could weaken support from Arab states that joined the coalition against Iraq following its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Baghdad issues toughest warning to Israel

Combined agency despatches

IRAQ SAID Wednesday it would wipe out Israel if it came under attack from the Jewish state.

"Nothing called 'Israel' shall remain if Israel is involved in an aggression against Iraq," the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said in a front-page editorial which repeated previous threats against Israel.

Under a headline "If Israel is involved it will be its end," the newspaper said: "Iraq has taken a clear, defined and open decision to inflict an unprecedented punishment against this entity (Israel) which has usurped the rights of Arabs."

President Saddam Hussein threatened early this year to burn half of Israel with chemical weapons if it launched an attack against Iraq.

The Al Jumhuriya editorial followed remarks by Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens. He ruled out a first strike against Iraq despite alarm in the Jewish state that a solution to the Gulf crisis could leave Iraq's military strength intact.

Al Jumhuriya said: "If the Zionists are involved in any aggression against Iraq it will surely be their end because their account has become very heavy. 'Israel, playing an active role in the foreign invasion for the sacred lands of Arabs and Muslims in Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem, will not be far from severe punishment by all free people in the world,'" it added.

Al Jumhuriya said: "Iraq decided, even before the major confrontation (against the United States and its allies in the Gulf) not to allow any aggression against its installations to pass without punishment."

Israeli planes attacked and destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor near Baghdad in June 1981.

Iraq also condemned the United States Wednesday for allying with Israel at the United Nations and repeated its insistence on

text, reported by the official TASS news agency. "Speculation on this score was totally groundless," TASS quoted Shevardnadze's speech as saying.

Shevardnadze, who is in the United States this week for meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and other officials, sent the text of the speech to the Soviet parliament. On Dec. 3, a right-wing group of deputies had accused him of

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Badran says foreign powers trying to abort Arab dialogue

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday accused foreign powers which he did not name of trying to abort dialogue among Arab leaders in order to prevent an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

"There is foreign planning to hinder Arab-Arab dialogue and some of our Arab brothers are going along," the prime minister said in Parliament Wednesday.

He said that Algerian President Chadli Benjedid's current Arab tour was intended to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Jordan has been trying to settle the crisis through Arab

mediation, but the Kingdom's attempts were deliberately aborted, Badran said.

Also aborted were efforts by King Hassan of Morocco who held a mini-summit to discuss the matter with His Majesty King Hussein and President Benjedid, Badran said. He said that that mini-summit was to include other leaders but the attempt was sabotaged.

The government supports the idea of sending delegations from Jordan to explain Jordan's clear stand to the Arab and Islamic worlds, said Badran in response to calls by deputies.

"I believe that this is the right policy and this is what the government is going to follow," he

said. Badran said that certain Arab countries were saying that the solution to the crisis was possible only through Iraqi-American dialogue, while they know such dialogue only means military action.

He warned that Israel was continuously calling for the destruction of Iraq and was opposed to any peaceful resolution.

He said that he hoped Arab peoples would force their governments to see the virtues of an Arab solution. "People should ask their government how an Arab-Arab dialogue is embargoed while American-Israeli dialogue is being permitted," Badran said.

Jordan's media played key role in correcting misconceptions — Izzeddin

By Abdullah Hasanat Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The minister of information, Ibrahim Izzeddin, in a statement to the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday, said the Jordanian media had played a major role in clarifying the Kingdom's position on the Gulf crisis and in correcting misconceptions about Jordan's role in attempts to solve it.

The minister also explained

efforts by official media organs to develop and expand their programmes and gear them towards strengthening democratic practices and political pluralism in the country.

The minister's statement was in reply to a motion put forward by Deputy Ahmad Awaidi Abbadi, who charged that both the ministries of information and foreign affairs did not fully defend and explain Jordan's position during the Gulf crisis (see

related story page 3).

Reviewing the media role in explaining the Kingdom's position on the crisis in the Gulf, the minister said that the international media had since Aug. 2 painted an image of Jordan "as if it was an outlaw, working against the international will."

"The foreign media had criticised Jordan's handling of the evacuees, exaggerated in its

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House coalition seeks unity in ranks in quest for cabinet posts

By Ghadeer Taher Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Parliamentary Unity Coalition (PUC) met late into the night Wednesday in an attempt to unify ranks after divisions emerged over the coalition's possible participation in a new government.

The 40-strong coalition, which elected Muslim Brotherhood candidate Abdul Latif Arabiyat as speaker of the 90-member Lower House of Parliament, appeared divided over negotiations between Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Muslim Brotherhood for inclusion in a new cabinet.

Parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times that while the 22-member Muslim Brotherhood and the eight independent Islamist deputies broadly agreed on the principle of participation in the government, some coalition partners — pan-Arab nationalists and independents — were pressing for a new government rather than a limited reshuffle

within the Badran cabinet.

The pan-Arab nationalists and independents in the coalition, who last year refused to give their vote of confidence to Badran's government, "prefer to push for forming a new government, with or without Badran, rather than have a limited cabinet reshuffle that would not change much," said an independent deputy in the coalition.

Coalition sources said the pan-Arab nationalists and independents expressed apprehension that Badran's negotiations with the Muslim Brotherhood's leadership could eventually lead to their exclusion from the deal.

Differences within the coalition which delayed a final decision on participation in the cabinet expected last Tuesday centred on some deputies' reluctance to join Badran's government, according to coalition sources. They argue that participation in the government would not result in substantial change under present policies.

Sheikh Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifeh, the Brotherhood's spiritual leader, said Tuesday that "no final decision has yet been made (about participation in the government)." He said that "until now, there are some brothers who do not wish to join the government."

Informed sources said that the Brotherhood leadership had asked for five portfolios for itself and at least three for coalition partners during negotiations with Badran.

Parliamentary observers contend that by limiting his negotiations to the Brotherhood, Badran was trying to split the coalition and thus gain the advantage of having to deal with a smaller grouping.

"By responding to the needs of the Brotherhood and not its partners, the prime minister is trying to tell the group to abandon its allies in the coalition and get a better deal for itself," one observer asserted.

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Holders may or may not resist, but titles persist

By Abdullah Hasanat Jordan Times Staff Reporter

WHAT IS in a title: The speaker makes it big.

What is in a title, you might ask. A lot. Consider wofat, for example. It is the title given to relatively junior government officials, basically department heads and ministry undersecretaries.

Literally translated (the origin of such titles in Ottoman), it means kindness. "Your Kindness, would be very kind to sign this piece of paper for me," is what you often hear in departments that provide governmental services to the public. Their Kindnesses usually let visitors to their offices with piercing looks from head to toe. Their answers to your problem normally goes like this "Come back tomorrow."

Then consider saadat. This second lowest, if somewhat different, title is used to address people's deputies. Roughly it translates into happiness, or more precisely the process of imparting happiness on other people, or as supposed to.

So you address your deputy by saadat... meaning your happiness-giver. Then you have maali. This is very interesting because it is used to address ministers, former, serving and even departed. Maali al akh (brother) (I know at least one person who does that). And if you write to a minister, you address him: maali minister of so and so al akram.

Al-akram, which means the most generous, is added at the end of the sentence in anticipation of being provided with the service you require. That brings us to dawlat, the highest for mortal souls that do not belong to loyalty or nobility.

Dawlat can only be used to address prime ministers, past and present. Dawlat, means state. It implies the person addressed is the holder of power, all of it, almost. Those titles are used officially all the time — in royal decrees, in the official correspondence, in the

state media and not long ago in the press. They are bequeathed on people not in accordance with any law, but by tradition dating back to the Ottoman empire. From time to time you hear cries for their abolition, but the titles persist and their holders resist.

But why is the digging into this? The answer is simple. It is just that the issue turned into near controversy in parliament last week before it was quickly settled.

It started when Abdul Latif Arabiyat was elected House speaker to replace Maali Sulaiman Arar, a former minister. The prime minister, ministers and deputies used to address Arar "You Maali." With Arabiyat they got confused. Some ventured to call him maali, and some, including the prime minister, started calling him saadat, the title he deserves as a deputy. In fact they could have called wofat since he once served as secretary general to the Ministry of Educa-

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Japan and Germany deny delaying funds for Gulf

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japanese officials Wednesday denied that Japan is dragging its feet in disbursing \$2 billion pledged to support the multinational forces deployed against Iraq.

On Tuesday, U.S. Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said Japan and Germany, two of the world's leading economic powers, have delivered barely one-fifth of the money and materials they promised for allied military operation in the Gulf.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official said that of a total of \$1 billion pledged for the military effort and to support front-line states, some \$600 million has been contracted or disbursed.

The process for disbursing another \$600 million in emergency commodity loans for Jordan and Turkey will be completed very soon, said another official.

"It is not the case that the Japanese government is delaying disbursement," he said.

The remainder is under discussion at various levels, they said. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity under normal briefing rules.

One official said he had heard no complaints directly from the United States.

"We have been hearing from the U.S. side that (it) has been appreciating our cooperation. I really don't think it is taking too much time," he said.

Time has been needed for Gulf countries to identify their needs, and for officials to locate the necessary goods and draw up contracts, he added.

In aid for Gulf states affected by the international embargo against Iraq, Japan's is "the quickest disbursement compared to other donors," the other official said.

Williams said Japan had pledged \$2 billion to offset U.S. expenses in the Gulf, but so far had provided just \$126 million in cash and material support.

He declined to comment on

why the rest had not yet been disbursed.

A Foreign Ministry official would not comment on the Defence Department's figures, but said the numbers are constantly changing as new contracts are written almost every week.

Of the \$2 billion that Japan pledged for the multinational forces, about \$900 million has been allocated as a Gulf peace fund and more than half of that has been contracted or spent, he said.

Another \$100 million has been spent or contracted for transport and medical aid, he added.

The remaining \$1 billion is under discussion in Japan's parliament, which is debating a supplementary 1990 budget, he said.

"You can't disburse money that the government has not authorised yet," the official said.

Discussion of the supplementary budget was delayed in the last parliament session by debate over sending members of the Self-Defence Forces, Japan's military, to the Middle East. The proposal was dropped in the face of strong opposition by critics who cited the Japanese constitution's ban on war as an instrument of foreign policy.

Disbursement of \$600 million in emergency commodity loans to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey is snaggled by red tape in the recipient countries, an official said.

The disbursement of another \$100 million for front-line states has been pledged and the Finance Ministry is discussing with the World Bank spending yet another \$1 billion through co-financing projects, which would be the quickest way to disburse the money, officials said.

Germany also rejected the Pentagon claim that Bonn is lagging in promised support for the U.S., saying it has already made available more than 2 billion marks (\$1.36 billion) in aid.

Hans Klein, spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said the figure is wrong.

"The federal government does not know the basis for these calculations (the Pentagon's)," said Klein. "In any event, they do not correspond with facts."

Klein said the German government has already made available more than two billion marks toward its promised contribution of 3.3 billion marks (\$2.21 billion).

The Defence Ministry said Germany has made available to the U.S. military 1.6 billion marks (\$1.09 billion) in military equipment and transport alone.

Some of the military supplies are waiting at German ports for delivery to the Middle East, said a Defence Ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The ministry said the support consists of about 180 million marks (\$126 million) in trucks, communication gear and other equipment. He said it also includes 200 million marks (\$136 million) worth German-made trucks, which are designed to detect weapons.

Transport of military equipment to the Middle East is also included in the German contribution, said the ministry spokesman.

According to the official, some of the equipment is waiting at German ports for shipment "because transport availability is not as fast as would be wished."

"But it is assembled and ready for shipping," he said.

U.S. military officials inspected the offered military equipment on Nov. 11.

"They received a presentation on the material he believed would be feasible and what they wanted," said the ministry spokesman.

Some of the equipment comes from supplies the German army, called the Bundeswehr, inherited from the East German army.

He said East German equipment was offered because the Bundeswehr has a surplus of it.

Sourour named as Mahjoub successor

CAIRO (AP) — The parliamentary group of President Hosni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) nominated a cabinet member Wednesday to head the newly elected legislature, government sources said.

The nomination of Education Minister Ahmad Fat'hy Sourour, 58, is tantamount to his election as speaker of the People's Assembly, where the National Democrats control 80 per cent of seats.

As speaker, he would succeed to the presidency in Mubarak's absence. The speaker has no significant power outside the unicameral parliament, however.

Sourour, a noted jurist, will succeed as speaker the assassinated Rifaat Al Mahjoub, who was shot outside a luxury downtown Cairo hotel last October. The government blamed the slaying on Muslim extremists. It said security forces killed at least one triggerman, arrested some others and scores of alleged troublemakers in a massive crackdown.

Parliament members belonging to the ruling party chose Sourour at a closed meeting chaired by Mubarak, who opens the new chamber officially on Saturday.

The body's actual first sitting, for election of officers and other housekeeping chores, will be Thursday.

Sourour's assignment means that he must relinquish his education portfolio in the cabinet headed by Prime Minister Atef Sedki, the sources said.

Sourour became education minister in 1986 after serving as dean of Cairo University's law school, where he had studied, and then as vice president of the university. He was cultural counselor at Egypt's Paris embassy between 1965 and 1967.

Parliamentary elections were held Nov. 29 and runoffs on Dec. 6 for the assembly's 444 elective seats. In accordance with the constitution, Mubarak has appointed another 10 members including three women.

The Democrats won 318 elective seats, most of whom belong to or support the party. Mubarak's female appointments brought the number of women parliamentarians to 10. The assembly's term is five years.

Reduction proposed in U.N. force in Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A United Nations team has recommended a 200-man reduction in the 2,132-strong U.N. Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and said it should be financed by all U.N. members instead of voluntary contributions.

The recommendations were outlined Tuesday in a report by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar proposing a routine six-month renewal of the force, set up in 1964 to help keep peace between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The U.N. Security Council will meet to approve the renewal before UNFICYP's current mandate expires on Dec. 15.

The secretary general said a team he sent to Cyprus last month to review the operation of the U.N. force examined the possibility of reducing the number of its infantry battalions from four to three without cutting the current level of on-line personnel.

"The team concluded that this would be feasible and that it would permit a better ratio of line troops to support troops, resulting in an overall reduction of some 200, all ranks," Perez de Cuellar said.

The team also said continued reliance on voluntary contributions to cover the costs for which the United Nations was responsible would jeopardise the future of UNFICYP.

"It also expressed the view that the changed organisation that it recommended could be implemented only if the method of financing was changed to assessed contributions," the secretary general said.

UNFICYP, which mans a buffer zone stretching 180 kilometres across the island, has accumulated deficit of more than \$170 million even though the countries providing troops cover about 70 per cent of the costs.

Perez de Cuellar said the U.N. team's findings seemed sound and he intended discussing their implementation with the troop-donor governments.

UNFICYP at present consists of army units from Austria, Britain, Canada and Denmark, while Finland, Ireland and Sweden each provide fewer than a dozen men. In addition, Australia and Sweden furnish small contingents of civilian police. The force commander is Major General Clive Milner of Canada.

Perez de Cuellar said the U.N. review team considered converting UNFICYP, in whole or in part, into an unarmed observer mission instead of a lightly-armed peacekeeping force but concluded that the situation on the ground did not make this a viable option.

"Because of the lack of agreement between UNFICYP and the two sides on the complete delineation of the ceasefire lines... and the lack of agreement on the use and control of the buffer zone, UNFICYP must retain both a reactive and a preventive capability," the secretary general said.

Westerners flee Somalia as chaos overtakes law

NAIROBI (AP) — Western embassies and aid organisations are urging their nationals to leave Somalia where widespread banditry, rebellions and an accelerating breakdown of law and order make life unsafe.

At least four dozen Westerners left the capital, Mogadishu, since last weekend following directives from the American, British and German embassies and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The foreigners left behind a city beset by a steep increase in poverty and street crime, violence from security forces, an advancing rebel army and a collapsing economy. Observers call the multiple problems the greatest threat to President Mohammad Siad Barre's 21-year rule.

"It's a terrible situation," said a Western diplomat who monitors Somalia for his mission. "It has all the classic signs of a regime on its last legs."

Since June, there have been more than half a dozen unexplained bombings at diplomatic missions and government offices and at least three foreigners have been killed in robberies, holdups and car thefts.

In July, security forces opened fire on a crowd who jeered the president in a soccer stadium, killing at least 60 people, say diplomats. The next month, the "Red Beret" presidential guard hijacked at least three dozen four-wheel drive vehicles at gunpoint from Western organisations.

Siad Barre is constantly guarded by his fanatically loyal "Red Beret" battalion, which is drawn from his Mareban sub-clan, and has had a bunker built at Mogadishu's international airport, which doubles as an air force base. Diplomats say he has been known to spend time in the bunker, which affords a rapid escape route by air.

On Sunday, the Foreign Office in Bonn ordered the nearly two dozen Germans to leave the country except for a skeleton staff to run its small embassy. The Foreign Office said it did not know how many Germans might still be in the Horn of Africa country for aid groups or private businesses.

The British and the Americans over the weekend also advised all their non-essential personnel and dependents to leave Somalia and urged tourists not to visit the nation at this time.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said there were now about 100 Britains remaining in Mogadishu.

The U.S. Department advisory urged the more than 100 private American citizens in Somalia to leave the country as soon as possible and said those who didn't should stay in touch with the embassy and exercise caution.

"Communal violence is occurring in the city of Mogadishu and violent crime and vehicle thefts are increasingly common," said the warning. "A state of civil war exists in much of the countryside."

Barre, who seized power in a bloodless 1969 coup, has fought a series of clan-based rebel groups in recent years.

Rebels of the United Somali Congress, a recently formed group which springs from the large, central Hawiye clan, are reportedly within 50 kilometres of the capital.

Further north, Siad Barre is challenged by the more established Somali National Movement, which draws its strength from the Isaaq clan and has been fighting since 1982 for the president's overthrow.

In the south, the renegade Colonel Omar Jess leads a force whose core is a battalion he induced to desert with him last year. The Somalia Patriotic Movement also operates in the south, but has been quiescent of late.

As the war has intensified, many in the countryside have been forced to migrate to the capital where the population has tripled over the last year.

The Western diplomat blamed some of the capital city banditry on those moving to Mogadishu from the nation's vast desert regions.

PLO, after year of setbacks, sees deliverance in Gulf deal

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TUNIS — The Palestinian movement, in a year dominated by the Gulf crisis, has lost hundreds of millions of dollars, access to the U.S. administration and much of the sympathy it once enjoyed among Israeli liberals.

By taking what looks like a strongly pro-Iraq line in the Gulf conflict, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has burned its bridges with Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states and strained to the limit old friendships with many Europeans, Western diplomats say.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, a tireless traveller for years, has seen his world shrink since the crisis broke out in August. Despite PLO claims to be mediating, Arafat has not visited Europe, Egypt or the Gulf states since early in the crisis.

PLO workers have taken salary cuts of up to 12 per cent and the organisation has reduced other costs by 40 per cent because of the fall in income from the Gulf. The loss of revenue from Kuwait alone was \$62 million up to mid-

November.

And instead of words of sympathy from visiting Europeans, Arafat has had to put up with a string of lectures on international law and consistency in opposing occupation by force, European diplomats say.

But at PLO headquarters in Tunisia, a country where the political atmosphere is overwhelmingly pro-Iraqi, Palestinian leaders are shedding no tears over their decision to hitch their wagon to the Iraqi star.

"It (the Gulf crisis) has been a historic opportunity to raise the Palestinian issue and to get U.N. resolutions on Palestine carried out," said Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO Information Department in Tunis.

"Although it has been the hardest hit financially, the PLO has gained politically. There is a growing awareness of the Israeli occupation (of the West Bank and Gaza Strip) and even the United States is starting to talk of an international peace conference, if only in an opportunistic way," he added.

But the assessment of Western diplomats in Tunis is that 1990 has been a year of serious setbacks for the PLO, which

when the year began seemed to be on the threshold of indirect talks with the Israeli government.

Under a plan put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Israelis would have sat down with Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories, not directly linked to the PLO, to discuss the future of the territories.

"There was a debate which tore the Israeli cabinet apart. It came within a whisker of succeeding and that would have changed the whole picture," said a European ambassador.

Then, on May 30, a raid on the Israeli coast by guerrillas from the small PLO faction the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) led to the suspension of PLO-Arabian dialogue.

The PLO refused U.S. demands that it condemn the operation and take disciplinary action against Mohammad Abbas (Abu Abbas), the leader of the PLF.

When the dialogue had opened 18 months earlier, Palestinians hailed it as a major step towards international recognition, a PLO objective since the 1960s.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2 and Washington sent troops to Saudi Arabia,

the PLO was in the forefront of Arab states which said the U.S. presence was the greater evil.

Arafat has not openly called for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and has advocated an Arab solution which Kuwaitis and their allies take to mean territorial concessions to Iraq.

Kuwaiti Planning Minister Suleiman Mutawa, in a reaction typical of Gulf Arabs, said in Tunis last month that Palestinian leaders had abandoned their principles for short-term gains.

"It's a pity that some Palestinian leaders do not realise, when they failed to come out in support of justice, that they undermined their appeals for the world to come to their help and not to condone invasion," he said.

Diplomats said many European parliamentarians previously sympathetic to the PLO cause felt the same way.

"The PLO has lost a great deal of ground. It's difficult for politicians in Europe to help the PLO when they've done so little to help themselves," said one.

"The damage from constant television pictures of Arafat embracing (Iraqi president)

Saddam Hussein in Baghdad has been incalculable," he added.

A PLO leader who took part in recent meetings in Baghdad said the organisation would reap the benefits of its policy soon after the Gulf crisis was settled, whatever the outcome.

"If there is war, the United States will lose politically and the Palestinian problem will remain as it was. If there is a compromise, it would include linkage between the Gulf and Palestine, which would help us no end," he said.

He ruled out the possibility of Iraq caving in to U.N. resolutions by withdrawing from Kuwait without assurances on the Palestinian problem. "The Iraqis know that if they withdraw, the United States will not stop there," he said.

European diplomats disagree that the post-Gulf crisis period will be plain sailing for the Palestinians.

"It may have brought home to the West that Palestine is the main cause of Middle East instability but that doesn't mean they can do anything about it. In Israel those opposed to talks with the PLO see their position reinforced," said one ambassador.

Algerian premier wins confidence vote on reform

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche has won an overwhelming vote of confidence from parliament to press ahead with controversial liberal economic reforms.

The vote, a foregone conclusion since parliament began a debate on the government's reform programme Saturday, was 275 for and two against with 11 abstentions.

The national assembly consists entirely of nominees of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) but the party has been split over the government's crash programme to create a market economy next year after 20 years of socialist central planning.

It was the first time since Algerian independence in 1962 a prime minister had faced a parliamentary vote of confidence, made possible by moves towards a multi-party democracy.

"Your confidence amounts to trust in the course and programme of the reforms," Hamro told deputies after the vote. "It is a promise to pull out of the economic crisis."

Assembly President Abdul Aziz Belkhadem said, "This vote of confidence will support the government in its negotiations with foreign partners and free them from doubts that the duties of the people are against the reforms."

Two months ago Hamrouche faced sharp criticism from hard-line FLN opponents who said his programme threatened thousands of public sector jobs. Former Assembly President Rabah Bitat resigned in protest.

The two dissenting votes came from Abdul Kader Merbah, a recent convert to the opposition Movement for Justice and Democracy, and FLN hardliner Abdul Kader Charar.

"We have given a blank cheque to a philosophical programme we hoped would be translated into concrete figures... we cannot permit ourselves to dream," Merbah said.

Bitat was among the abstentions along with a lone deputy from the Movement for Democracy in Algeria of former president Ahmad Ben Bella.

Hamrouche urged common action with the deputies to win next year's first free general elections for the FLN. "I consider myself and the government enrolled within your ranks to work on the ground to launch the big battle and win the coming tests."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 News in Arabic
20:00 Local review
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cartoons
18:35 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Reportage d'Actualites
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Black Forest
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the Week: "Moon Against the Mob"

PRAYER TIMES

04:59 Fajr
06:22 Sunrise
11:30 Dhuhr
14:14 Asr
16:37 Maghreb
18:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzanna Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Aman International Church Tel. 827981, 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Aqaba 11/25
Deserts 5/21
Jordan Valley 12/26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalidun Kloub 626919
Dr. Jamal Tarif 794710
Dr. Mohammed Al Sawwa 732056
Dr. Abdul Oader Al Lala 696048
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fordons pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Naroukh pharmacy 626572
Al Salam pharmacy 636750
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ta'ani (—)
Al Shura'a pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Rabah Al Borial (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 983417

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 894390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 773111
Abdull Telephone Repairs 651101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RQ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musashir Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdull 666127/67
Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mohajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674135

ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
RIBDA:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:15 Riyadh (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ)
13:15 Paris (RJ)
14:00 Larnaca (RJ)
17:15 Aqaba (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:20 Sana (LH)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
16:20 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
16:30 Dubai (EK)
16:35 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
18:05 Cairo (MS)
18:50 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KL)
19:15 Frankfurt (LH)

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in Eils per kg
Apple 550 / 430
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukamar) 450 / 400
Beans 280 / 220
Cabbage 100 / 50
Carrot 180 / 80
Cauliflower 120 / 80
Corn 180 / 120
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 320 / 250
Dates 200 / 150
Eggplant 200 / 400
Figs 500 / 300
Garlic 1400 / 1000
Grapes 550 / 450
Lemon 200 / 150
Mallow 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 100 / 50
Marrow (small) 200 / 150
Onion (dry) 240 / 180
Onion (green) 200 / 150
Okra 600 / 500
Orange 350 / 200
Pepper (hot) 200 / 150
Pepper (sweet) 120 / 80
Potato 330 / 230

PRAYER TIMES

04:59 Fajr
06:22 Sunrise
11:30 Dhuhr
14:14 Asr
16:37 Maghreb
18:00 Isha

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Koran
18:15 Children programme
18:30 Religious programme
19:00 Friday's prayer
19:15 Sports programme
19:45 Religious seminar
20:00 News summary
20:30 Local programme
20:50 Programme review
21:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Local programme
21:40 Arabic series
21:50 News in Arabic
22:30 News summary in Arabic
23:00 Programme contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:50 French film
18:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Coach
21:10 Shakespeare
22:00 News in English
22:30 Detective in the House

GUVS ships 20 tonnes of relief supplies to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Wednesday announced it had shipped 20 tonnes of relief supplies to Iraq and said it was made up of medicines and medical milk destined for the Iraqi children.

A GUVS announcement said that the shipment, the second of its kind in two weeks, was destined to the Iraqi institutions which care for the children and it was in harmony with the U.N. Security Council resolutions which allowed humanitarian supplies to be sent to Iraq.

Last week GUVS shipped five tonnes of medical supplies and said that they too were destined for Iraqi children; the shipment came in the wake of Iraq's announcement that tens of children had died due to shortage of medicine and milk.

GUVS, which had raised more than JD 1 million in cash and humanitarian supplies to Iraq following the imposition of

a trade embargo with Iraq, had organised several shipments of basic food commodities, medical supplies and other relief materials which were sent to Baghdad in trucks.

In October the Jordanian government barred further shipments and turned back two consignments of medicine and food. Border police stopped the trucks and turned them away. Representatives of two local pharmaceutical companies, which organised the shipments of medicine, met with U.N. representatives in Jordan to secure the passage of the medical supplies which were not in violation of the U.N. sanctions.

A U.N. envoy, Jean Ripert, who visited Jordan in October, reported that the Kingdom was honouring the sanctions, except for the purchase of Iraqi oil, and said that Jordan was eligible for compensation for its heavy losses incurred as a result of its compliance with the embargo.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday holds talks with UNRWA Commissioner General Giorgio Giacomelli (Petra photo)

UNRWA head ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) commissioner general Giorgio Giacomelli leaves Amman for the occupied Arab territories Thursday following a three-day stay in Jordan during which he discussed the agency's operations with Jordanian leaders and inspected UNRWA's operations.

Giacomelli met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday for a review of UNRWA's operations and to discuss

the adverse impact of the Gulf crisis on the agency's services to the Palestinian refugees, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that Giacomelli and the Prince discussed areas where UNRWA and other U.N. affiliated agencies could coordinate their work with the Jordanian government with a view to reducing the negative effects of the Gulf crisis on the Palestinian refugees.

In submitting his annual report to UNRWA's Information Committee last month, Giacomelli said that the events over the past months had added a new dimension to existing tensions and that the Palestinians had begun to feel the negative consequences of the crisis in the Gulf with "many disappointed and disenchanted" as they had hoped for a joint settlement of that crisis and the Palestine question.

Debate on foreign policy reaches deadlock

By Abdullah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday interrupted deputy Ahmad Awaideh Al Abbadi's speech he was making on the performance of the Foreign Ministry and Jordanian ambassadors.

Deputies rose to their feet, threw their hands in the air and shouted when Abbadi accused the ambassadors of corruption, smuggling, dealing in gold and foreign currency and neglecting their duties.

Abbadi interrupted his speech and left the podium after a sharp exchange with some deputies who protested at the language he used to describe the ambassadors.

"Blessed are those who suck the people's blood and find defenders under this dome," Abbadi said reading himself to leave the podium.

Deputy Yousef Al Athem (Muslim Brotherhood, Ma'an) countered Abbadi by saying: "We have always sought to uncover the corrupt. We have never been hypocritical about it."

"Yes you were," Abbadi said and left the podium.

Deputy Faisal Al Jazi, (Independent, southern bedouins), sitting next to Abbadi, was overheard telling him it was a "shame" to describe the ambassadors the way he did.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said that his ministry had

been the subject of slandering campaigns for no reason he could understand.

"This is either the result of misinformation or a deliberate act of slandering," he said. He said he had already explained his ministry's performance to the House's Administrative Committee.

When Abbadi said that Jordanian ambassadors were employing foreign nationals, Qasem replied that this was only natural, because all embassies employ local staff.

On the subject of the ministry's performance during the Gulf crisis, Qasem explained that Jordan had all along the crisis insisted on an Arab solution, but "there were many — friends and foes alike — who did not want an Arab-Arab dialogue or an Arab solution" to the crisis.

"Jordan persisted in its approach because Jordan wanted Arab rights restored and wanted to prevent those who intended to such Arab blood and Arab resources from doing so," he said.

In the debate that followed, deputies Ibrahim Masoud Khreisat (Muslim Brotherhood, Salt) and Ahmad Qteish Al Azaideh (Muslim Brotherhood, Madaba) insisted that Abbadi continue his speech without slandering people or departing from the "familiar."

Khreisat insisted that Abbadi present whatever papers or documents he had to the House to study.

"A deputy should be allowed to speak the way he likes, provided he does not mention names or depart from the norms of speech," Azaideh said.

Abbadi, who said that he had documents to support his charges, was reexamining a statement made by Qasem two weeks ago. In the statement, Qasem, in reply to a query by Abbadi concerning Jordan's foreign policy during the Gulf crisis, detailed his ministry's efforts to defend and explain Jordan's position.

A point of order was raised by deputies Leith Shubailat (Independent Islamist, Amman), Thouqan Hindawi (Independent, Irbid), Salim Zubi (Nationalist, Ramtha) and Salameh Ghuwairi (Independent, Zarqa). All four maintained that Abbadi had deviated from the original issue of the Foreign Ministry's performance during the crisis.

Abbadi said he believed that the two issues were very much linked together. "How do we expect a corrupt ambassador to defend the country's interest?" he asked.

Abbadi was given the podium again but was once more interrupted on grounds that he was departing from the original issue.

The debate was then closed on the understanding that Abbadi would move a new motion asking the minister of foreign affairs to explain the functions of Jordanian embassies abroad.



Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah (right) and ESCWA Executive Secretary General Tayseer Abdul Jabbar (middle) Wednesday sign a memorandum of understanding (Petra photo)

Environment project serves as case study

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will carry out a project concerning the protection of the environment in Jordan during the coming year in cooperation with the Jordanian government, according to a memorandum of understanding signed in Amman Wednesday.

"The project, which is to be conducted in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), will serve as a case study, and aims at determining how the environmental factors can be incorporated in development plans that are being implemented in the country," ESCWA Executive Secretary General Tayseer Abdul Jabbar told the Jordan Times.

"Areas to be examined in the course of implementation of the project include industry and agriculture, among others, and local consultants working for the Ministry of planning will be involved in the process," Abdul Jabbar said.

The ESCWA office, he said, is also concerned with matters related to development, water, agriculture and energy.

Cases of pollution, like that of the Zarqa River water, and plans that deal with such environmental issues, Abdul Jabbar said, will be part of the areas to be covered by the environ-

mental case study in Jordan. He said that ESCWA and UNEP would examine the prospect of carrying out similar projects in other Arab countries in the Western Asia region in the light of the results of the case study which will be carried out in Jordan.

Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah, who signed the memorandum of understanding with Dr. Abdul Jabbar, said in a statement that the project aimed at bolstering the Kingdom's capabilities in environmental planning and management by involving environmental factors in development projects.

Abdul Jabbar, who announced the opening of ESCWA's liaison office in Amman last October, said his office would carry out projects in different Arab countries and offer expertise to the ESCWA member states.

"ESCWA will organise an Arab regional conference on environment and development in May 1991 in cooperation with the Arab League and UNEP to reach a pan-Arab environment strategy to be submitted to the world conference on the environment due to be held in Brazil in 1992," Abdul Jabbar said.

The ESCWA office here also plans to draw up a strategy for transport in the Arab region, entailing 38 schemes covering air, maritime and land transport operations in cooperation with Arab governments.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, India to discuss trade ties

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Indian Economic Committee will hold a meeting in New Delhi on Dec. 17 to review bilateral relations in the fields of trade and economy. A spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Trade praised the Jordanian-Indian relations and said India was one of the important markets for phosphates and potash. He pointed out that both India and Jordan were undertaking a study on setting up a joint project for producing phosphoric acid in Jordan. The Jordanian delegation to the meetings will be headed by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Ibrahim Badran.

Pharmacists hold seminar

RAMTHA (Petra) — A seminar on pharmacy education was opened Wednesday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The seminar is organised by the university's Faculty of Pharmacy and the Jordanian Pharmacists Association under the title "Anti-inflammatory Drugs." JUST Vice-President Fayez Khasawneh who opened the seminar said doctors and pharmacists would be taking part in the seminar to discuss the issue from several perspectives. President of the Jordanian Pharmacists Association Tayseer Al Homsi stressed the role of the university in holding such seminars with the goal of contributing to the scientific development and to research in medical fields. He said the seminar aimed at updating the pharmacists' knowledge. The seminar discussed several issues related to the chemical classification of medicine and medicine's side effects.

Agricultural sector surveyed

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Statistics Department has conducted a survey recently covering the agricultural sector in the Kingdom with the objective of collecting basic information on the agricultural sector to use it in drawing agricultural plans and crystallising a national food security policy in the Kingdom. Statistics revealed by the department showed that 543,580 dunums in the Kingdom were planted with fruit trees, with the trees on this area reaching 10,397,532. It also showed that 223,586 dunums were yearly planted with vegetables and that 1,033,560 dunums were planted with field crops.

Land survey conducted

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Corporation in cooperation with the concerned ministries and departments has started conducting survey on lands in Greater Amman, Zarqa, and Ruseifa areas in order to identify and classify the areas again and to make use of unexploited lands. The survey also aims at finding areas suitable for building housing projects for citizens of limited income resources. The project, to which the U.S. Agency for International Development is contributing, comes as part of the national housing strategy.

JNRCS plans peace gathering

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) is planning to organise an international peace gathering at Al Azraq evacuee camp with the objective of bolstering friendly relations between members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movements, according to JNRCS Vice President and Director of the Relief Operations Mohammad Miteeq Al Hadid.

Hadid said the conference also aimed at affirming the role of the youth in achieving peace among the nations and in spreading awareness among the public of the dangers of mass destruction weapons.

Seminar tackles Gulf crisis dimension

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar entitled "The Gulf Crisis and its Regional and International Dimensions" was held Wednesday at the University of Jordan. Participants in the seminar tackled the political, economic and military dimensions of the crisis, with special emphasis on Jordan's stand.

Dr. Ghazi Rababa'a, of the university's Political Science Department, said the Gulf crisis had come as part of changes in the world order, which escalated the situation in the Gulf region through the amassing of large number of troops.

"The existence of foreign troops in the region was caused by the U.S. desire to keep its

influence over Europe and Japan through dominating oil resources in the Gulf region and controlling the production and pricing of oil," he said.

He added: "The Arab Nation is now invited more than at any other time to conduct Arab-Arab dialogue to secure the rights of its people to its wealth."

Dr. Abdul Hussein Attiyyeh, of the Faculty of Economics, tackled the economic dimensions of the Gulf crisis and the main reasons behind escalating the crisis, represented by the importance of controlling the oil.

Another reason for the crisis, he said, was the division, within

the Arab Nation, into rich and poor countries.

Dr. Mohammad Masalha, a professor at the Department of Political Science at the university, reviewed the Arab countries' legal, political and military stands on the crisis and said changes brought about by the crisis would restructure the concept of the Arab national security.

Faisal Al Rofou', of the Political Science Department, spoke of the crisis and reviewed the legal shortcomings of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on the crisis, affirming that the superpowers follow a selective policy in implementing those resolutions.

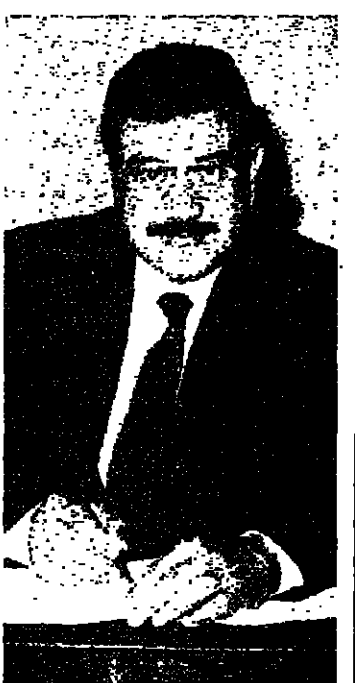
Jordan, Tunisia sign agreement

TUNIS (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Trade Committee Wednesday stressed the need to remove all obstacles impeding the implementation of the common trade goals between Jordan and Tunisia and called for finding ways to strengthen trade relations between the two countries.

At the conclusion of the committee's meetings here the two sides signed the minutes of an agreement endorsing the establishment of industrial and trade cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia.

The two sides agreed that both countries should exchange information and expertise to combat communicable diseases and activate the exchange between the two countries in the field of information. They also affirmed the importance of continuing holding trade fairs in Amman and Tunis.

The volume of annual trade exchange between the two countries rose to \$3 million this year. Of the total amount, \$1.5 million were allocated for exhibitions and the rest for trade exchange



Ziad Fariz

divided equally between both sides.

The meeting was co-chaired by Jordanian Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz and Tunisian Minister of Economy and Finance Mohammad Al Ghanouchi.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

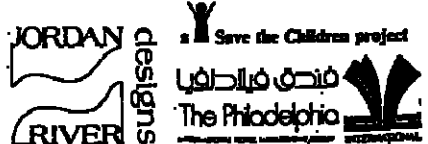
- ★ Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "L'orient des cafes" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mukarram Haghondoga at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Mark On Your Calendar

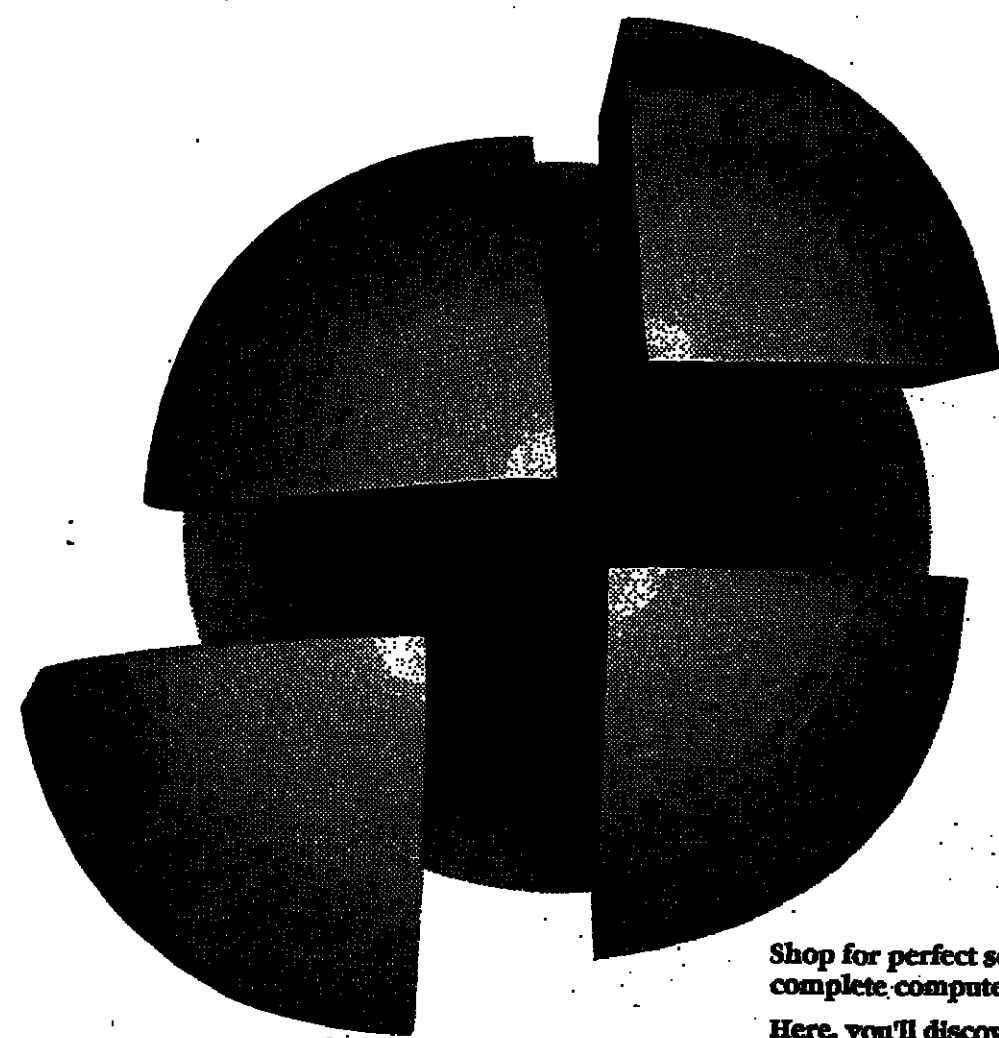
Christmas Exhibition

at The Philadelphia International Hotel

DEC. 17 - DEC. 24
10am - 10pm.



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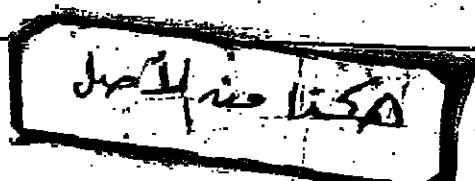
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Double standards again!?

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush had beautiful words to say on Dec. 10 which is Human Rights Day in the United States. In his speech on freedom and human rights, Bush warned that his country "cannot be true to what is best in us if we fail to speak out for those whose voices are silent." Then, as expected, Bush turned to the Gulf crisis. Nowhere is that need greater, he said, than in Kuwait, "a nation now in the grasp of a tyrant unmoved by human decency." He went on to describe the alleged Iraqi human rights record in Kuwait as a "catalogue of human misery" that included looting, torture, rape, summary execution and "acts of unspeakable cruelty."

All of this the U.S. Chief Executive said without even mentioning Israel's dismal human rights record in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. South Africa — where human rights abuses still abound — got no mention either, and also absent from his list were some of the Latin American countries where the U.S. government once instigated the overthrowing of the legitimate governments and replaced them with tyrannical regimes. The Pinochet regime that was imposed on the people of Chile against their will is just one example. A more recent instance, this time in another part of the world, is Cambodia where one of the most brutal regimes of all times, the Khmer Rouge, is being considered for reinstatement in that war-torn country with the backing and encouragement of many Western countries. If Washington is so concerned about spreading human rights beyond Europe to touch on Africa, South Africa and Asia why was Bush so ominously silent? The double standards we have grown to expect from the U.S. appeared again with Bush's desire to advance the cause to include the Gulf region.

There is no reason for U.S. concern about human rights not to include the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or indeed other parts of the Middle East region. There is no suggestion that Iraq's record on human rights is perfect nor does any one wish to defend its occupation of Kuwait. That is not the position of any true defender of human rights and basic human freedoms. Rather, the issue that needs to be addressed is whether human rights in this part of the world and the U.S. interest therein are mutually exclusive.

What we are asking of the U.S. president and his administration is not just to slam Israel over its dismal human rights record regarding the Palestinians and forget all about it a minute later. What we need from the U.S. is to start thinking of the Palestinian problem as it indeed is, and to do whatever is necessary to solve it regardless of the other situations, in this part of the world and elsewhere. Washington has a place to start and the perfect timing. It can and should be party to the proposed U.N. resolution on the Palestinians. It should say yes to protecting them, as is called for by international legitimacy and human rights conventions. And it can go beyond this by taking another step that it says it approves of already: agree to the holding of an international peace conference on the Palestinian problem. Only through being evenhanded and logical can the U.S. ever hope to stand up for human rights and be counted.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Wednesday welcomed a visit to Jordan by the Algerian president who is embarking on a historic move to bring about peace to the Arab Gulf region and the world. Perhaps Benjaid's tour will mark the first step towards bringing about an Arab-Arab dialogue, as advocated by King Hussein, paving the way for a settlement within the Arab framework, said the paper. Perhaps this last chance for the Arabs can best be utilised through the efforts of the Jordanian-Algerian leaders who are keen on averting disaster and concerned about the future of the Arab nation, the paper said. History will not forget the great deed of the two great men and their service to their nation, and their joint efforts to abort enemy plots and conspiracies and aggression, said the paper. It said that the expected dialogue among Arab leaders involved in the Gulf crisis should pave the way for an end to the conflict in the Gulf and for re-establishing solidarity among Arab countries on a solid ground. Arab leaders should realise, the paper warned, that what they are facing in the Gulf is a deployment of the elements of evil and an alliance of brutal forces bent on bringing about destruction and suffering for the Arabs. It wished the two leaders success in their mission and the achievement of peace in the Gulf.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily launches a strong attack on Turkey and its President Turgut Ozal for showing increasing enmity towards the Arabs in general and Iraq and Syria in particular. Turkey which has common borders with Iraq and Syria and which has been benefiting from Arab countries by marketing its products to the Arabs, has displayed its hostile attitude by stopping the flow of river water to the two Arab countries, aligned itself with the Americans against Iraq and is adopting hostile attitudes towards the Arab World in general, says Tareq Mawarrah. Ozal has promised to send troops to the Gulf, stopped the flow of Iraqi oil through Turkish territory and is more enthusiastic than all other leaders in seeing Iraq's military power destroyed, the writer points out. He says what is surprising is to see Ozal welcomed in Arab Gulf capitals which bestowed money on him for his hostile attitude towards the Arabs. The writer also calls attention to the attitude of the Soviet Union which massed great wealth through selling the Arabs different types of weapons and aircraft, and which benefited from its trade with the Arab states. He says that Moscow which received \$4 billion from Saudi Arabia as a reward for its present hostile stand towards Iraq, continues to back American policies at the U.N. Security Council. The writer says that the deployment of foreign and hostile forces in the Gulf and the enmity displayed by countries in the East and the West towards the Arabs are a clear manifestation of contempt and disregard they harbour towards the Arab nation.

Iraq's military might would haunt U.S. - led alliance even after withdrawal

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

RIYADH — Some diplomats and other observers can see the rough outlines of a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis emerging.

But any face-saving formula that induces Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait leaves a long-term question: what to do about its large and powerful military.

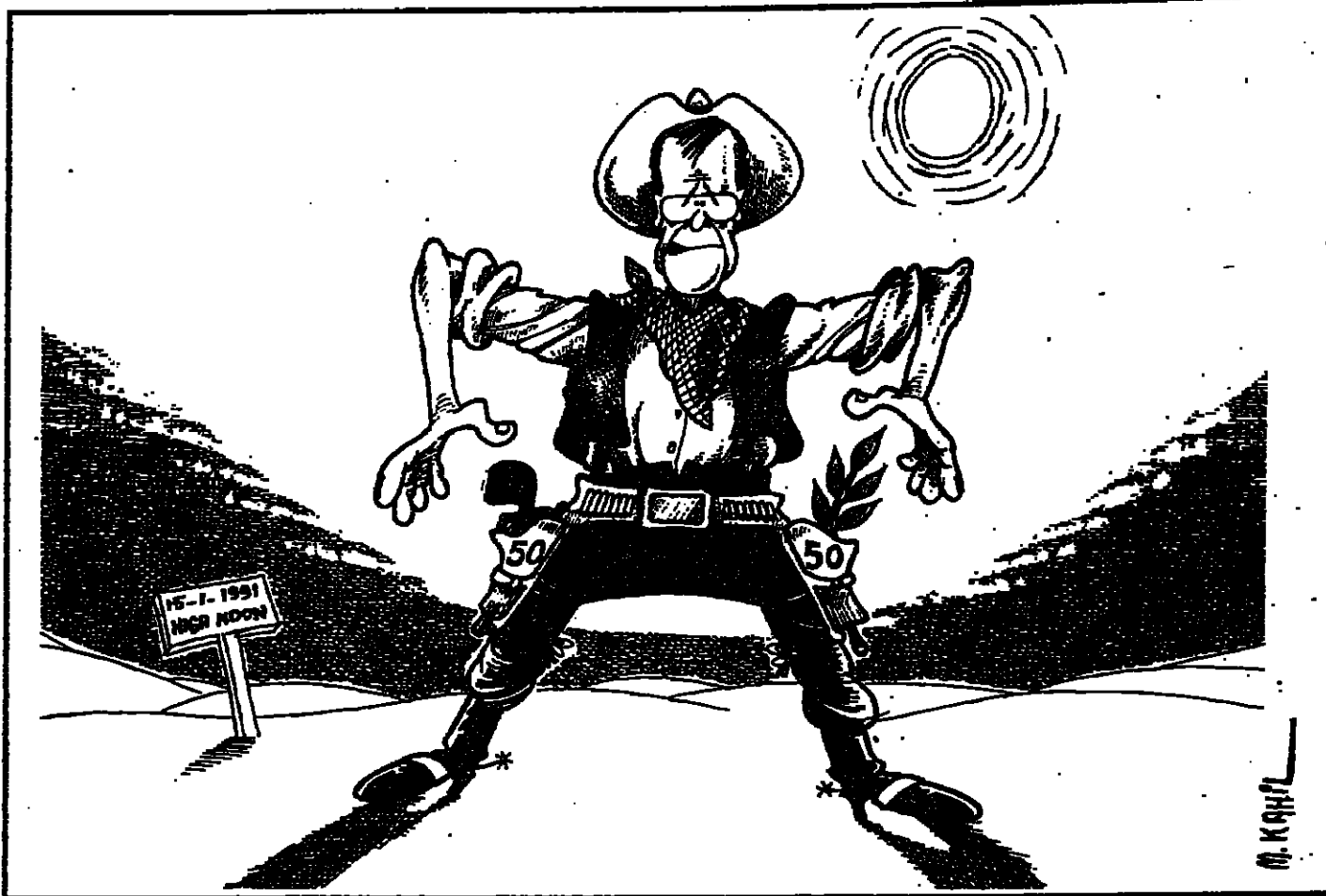
"We can't accept being next to a country ready to invade any morning," said a senior Saudi diplomat, who like his colleagues spoke on condition of anonymity.

A Saudi source knowledgeable on military affairs said Sunday that the release of foreigners by Iraq may signal a planned withdrawal from Kuwait, and that chances of peace are better than those of war.

So far, Baghdad has shown no inclination to pull its 460,000 troops from the Kuwait theatre and reinstate the Kuwaiti ruling family, two key U.N. demands.

But it has agreed to release foreigners, which the Security Council has repeatedly called on it to do. The first group of them flew out on Sunday.

The United States is pouring troops into Saudi Arabia, and expects to have a force of more than 400,000 ready for offensive action by Jan. 15. That is the deadline the United Nations Security Council set for an Iraqi withdrawal, authorising "all necessary means" to



get it out after that.

On the heels of the resolution, Iraq accepted U.S. President George Bush's offer to send U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker to Baghdad, and agreed to send Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to come to Washington.

Then, on Friday, the Iraqi

parliament approved a call to release all foreigners.

Washington, for its part, announced it would withdraw all its diplomats from the embassy in Kuwait, but not officially close the mission. Iraq had ordered all missions in Kuwait shut, declaring the country its 19th province.

Both sides, then, can save face by pointing to diplomatic gains while downplaying what they conceded.

"You leave something vague and one party presents it as a gain on their behalf and the other party can too," said a Middle Eastern diplomat.

On Sunday, Britain's Obser-

ver newspaper reported that Iraq has redrawn its border with Kuwait in what could signal plans to withdraw as early as next month.

The report said Iraq was laying claim to an area of Rumailah oilfield and the islands of Warba and Bubiyan in the Gulf, which it has long

coveted. Saudi officials denied the report. But one Saudi diplomat said Gulf leaders might be willing to pay Iraq money to assuage it. Iraq says that Kuwait stole billions of dollars in oil revenues from Iraq.

In any event, an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is seen as only the first step in stripping Iraq of its military capabilities.

It would be difficult to send U.S. soldiers into action now on the basis of a possible future war.

"Is it worth American lives to prevent a hypothetical situation?" said a Western diplomat.

Some Saudi officials also are reluctant to push for the total destruction of Iraq.

The immediate need, diplomats believe, is to concentrate on winning a withdrawal from Kuwait without an all-out fight.

"If you want to get Iraq out of Kuwait without a war, make it clear to it that you will hit it on Jan. 15," said the Saudi sources.

Then the alliance could look for a formula to contain Iraq. That might involve Iraqi guarantees of no more aggression, some economic and military sanctions against Baghdad and a multinational presence in the region while Saudi Arabia builds a military.

"It's like cutting the leaves of a plant that climbed over the wall," said the Middle Eastern diplomat. "The root is still there. You have to cut the tree or at least the branches."

Libya peers from revolutionary fortress, sees victory coming

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

TRIPOLI — Followers of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, peering from their revolutionary fortress as ideologies crumble in Eastern Europe and much of Africa, say only his Green Book can save the world.

They believe the collapse of communism has hastened the inevitable march of history towards Libyan-style jamahiriya (states of the masses) which alone can assure peace on earth.

Twenty-one years after Qadhafi overthrew a pro-Western monarch, and 13 years after he proclaimed people's power, his third universal theory still galvanises thousands of young Libyans.

It colours every aspect of life in this country of four million people, officially described as "paradise on earth."

Libyans wake in the morning to readings on state radio from the Green Book, Bible of Qadhafi's cultural revolution. They drive to work past green billboards that

shriek "No democracy without people's congresses" and "Partners, not wage earners."

Students pore over the Green Book at school and university then relax in the evening by watching television plays and films punctuated with more Qadhafi slogans.

A televised football match is likely to be subtitled with Qadhafi's views on sport — "the thousands who crowd stadiums to view, applaud and laugh are foolish people who have failed to carry out the activity themselves," the Green Book says.

Qadhafi, variously referred to as the leader of the world revolution, the international thinker, and pioneer of the revolution of the masses, is pictured all over Libya in bedouin, civilian and military poses.

But he insists it is not he who rules but the masses themselves through a system of direct democracy not unlike that of ancient Athens.

Every Libyan citizen is in theory a member of a basic people's congress whose decisions

are forwarded to the general people's congress that coordinates and adopts them. The system decrees there is no need for parties or deputies to represent the people.

"The odious Berlin Wall trembled when the voice of the international leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi reverberated to incite the masses in Germany to revolution," said a statement on

the state of the masses and parties will fall," he told thousands of chanting youngsters brandishing clenched fists and copies of his Green Book.

"Multi-party democracy is the precursor of popular congresses," he declared. "The proof of this is the existence of revolutionary committees all over the world."

Libya has spent millions, perhaps billions, of dollars of oil revenue to spread its message through embassies, friendship and solidarity associations, cultural centres and foreign revolutionary committees as far away as Australia.

Seeing itself as a fortress of revolution, Libya in 1982 set up the World Revolution (Mathaba) to resist imperialism, Zionism, racism, reaction and fascism. This offers funds and sometimes arms to revolutionary groups as diverse as American Indians, Australian aborigines, Filipino Muslims and rebels in El Salvador.

The World Centre for Studies and Research on the Green Book has translated it into 84 languages. It says the Russian ver-

sion sold like hot cakes at a Moscow book fair.

Within Libya the ideology has shown remarkable resilience, even as the country opens up to neighbouring Tunisia and Egypt and seeks integration with other North African states which have completely different political systems.

Qadhafi is revered as a man who put the country on the world map and brought oil wealth — \$7.5 billion last year — to the common man.

Libyans rarely criticise him or the jamahiriya system in front of foreigners, although many say they are simply not interested in politics.

"Libyans are traders. Leave them in peace to make money and they do not care about politics," said one Libyan businessman.

Critics say the system only took hold in Libya because its population is small, relatively wealthy and politically inexperienced. The economy, overwhelmingly state-owned, revolves around the simple allocation of oil wealth.

'A televised football match is likely to be subtitled with Qadhafi's views on sport — "the thousands who crowd stadiums to view, applaud and laugh are foolish people who have failed to carry out the activity themselves," the Green Book says.'

Rent and wages are in theory banned as forms of exploitation. Workers are supposed to receive a share of profits according to their productivity.

The upheaval in Eastern Europe has given comfort to believers in the third universal theory which holds that neither capitalism nor communism or any party-based political system can bring lasting social peace.

Oct. 26 by the revolutionary committees, set up by the Libyan leader to defend and guide his revolution.

Qadhafi himself, referring to events in Eastern Europe, told the annual conference of the committees to step up "incitement" of the masses around the world.

"I assure you the future of the world will be inevitably that of

production of local programmes. "But, one must confess, JTV is still at the beginning of the road; it has many strides to make in order to respond to people's expectations and feelings," the minister said.

He added that the Ministry of Information had enabled some 1,500 foreign journalists to cover the crisis through the provision of all possible facilities. These, he said, included briefing of foreign journalists on Jordan's position, facilitating access to information and providing all technical facilities to enable the journalists to transmit their messages.

He said that the ministry, in cooperation with Royal Court, had made it possible for foreign journalists to interview the King and the Crown Prince and these interviews were also used in the Jordanian media.

Izzeddin said that he himself had given numerous press briefings and interviews explaining Jordan's position and answered many of journalists' queries, although not all of his interviews were published or broadcast in Jordan.

The minister also said that many Jordanian intellectuals, journalists, politicians and economists contributed by giving interviews to newspapers, radio stations, and TV networks explaining the Kingdom's stand. Izzeddin's statement will be cross-examined by deputies in two weeks time.

Cabinet

(Continued from page 1)
said shortly before Wednesday's meeting: "This is going

to be a crucial discussion. It could decide whether the coalition holds up or not."

Badran refused to comment on the ongoing negotiations with the Muslim Brotherhood, but official sources said the prime minister "does not want to appear to be giving in to pressure from the coalition."

One source pointed out that the head of the executive authority was under no constitutional obligation to appoint members of the legislature to his cabinet.

"He could appoint non-parliamentary Islamists to represent the political forces in the House," said one government source. He explained that the prime minister could appoint Upper House members of different political persuasions or others who enjoy the support of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Parliamentary sources said Sheikh Khalifeh, who is heading the negotiations with Badran, had submitted a list of 10 nominees for cabinet portfolios which included people outside Parliament. The list, according to sources, including Balqa Deputy Fawzi Tuaimah, a Christian allied with the coalition.

The sources said Badran would choose five out of the 10 names for cabinet posts. The list is seen as a concession by the Brotherhood who initially insisted on giving a limited five-member list.

A source said Badran was also considering including members of the "National Bloc" and other groupings in Parliament including the

"Liberal Bloc" and independents. According to the source, the prime minister intends to continue to have technocrats in the government, particularly for the portfolios of industry, supply and finance.

One Brotherhood source said the group was seeking a final agreement with Badran by Dec. 16.

During a news conference with Baker Tuesday, Shevardnadze also ruled out any Soviet participation in military action against Iraq. But he reiterated Soviet support for U.N. Security Council resolutions imposing an international trade embargo on Iraq and threatening military force if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

"The Soviet Union does not and never had plans to get involved in any form in a possible military conflict in the Gulf," the speech said.

"I dismiss as naive accusations by those who would like to project matters as if the Foreign Ministry and the minister personally are heading towards a war in the Middle East," TASS quoted the speech as saying. "We did not nurture this thought even for a single moment. We totally excluded this."

In Houston Shevardnadze urged the U.S. government Tuesday to make a last-ditch diplomatic effort to avert war in the Gulf.

"It is also my strong hope that U.S. troops will not see action," Shevardnadze said at a news conference near the end of a two-day meeting with Baker.

Referring to the high-level talks President George Bush has proposed with Iraq, the Soviet minister said: "We pin much hope on the coming contacts."

But Baker said Baghdad still had not agreed on a date for him to go to Iraq to see Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. He offered any time between Dec. 20 and Jan. 3, but again rejected any Iraqi attempt to delay the visit until just before the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to pull out or face the prospect of military measures.

Shevardnadze also proposed that the Middle East be made a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait. But this would be hard to implement and is unlikely to be accepted willingly by countries in the region.

"We pin much hope on the coming contacts between Secretary Baker and President Bush and the Iraqi leadership," Shevardnadze told the news conference.

"There is still a potential for a peaceful solution," to the conflict and the sooner the talks take place the better, he said.

"As to Soviet involvement in military operation, I can tell you that this option is not under consideration and that this option is non-existent," Shevardnadze added.

The Washington Post has reported that Baker had asked Shevardnadze about sending a small military unit to the Gulf.

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

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Human suffering, personal expression and honest interaction make up success formula

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — perhaps the reason behind the success of the documentary film productions of Jean Chamoun and Mai Masri, which touch the human angle of the Lebanese and Palestinian experiences in their struggle for dignified survival, is that the filmmakers make a point of living with their subjects and knowing them well before they film and edit.

Months before filming starts, part of the team's research is to get closely acquainted with persons they intend to put in their films as representatives of the personalities they set out to portray in specific situations; mainly those in war-torn Lebanon and the Palestinians in Lebanon and Palestine.

While working on War Generation: Beirut, Chamoun and Masri got acquainted with hundreds of young Lebanese and Palestinians in Beirut before they decided to concentrate on a few people with different backgrounds, but who all have one thing in common: They are all victims of a destructive and meaningless war.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday, the team explained that in order to be able to make a film on an important subject as the Lebanese civil war and its effect on the people, one must know the people and live with their experiences first.

"First we try to break the barrier between us as filmmakers and the people and we become friends. And only when you spend time with them and their experiences, you can be able to relay these experiences. We have a position on the war (in Lebanon), but we refuse to have it from the top," Chamoun said.

The main theme coming out of War Generation is that no matter which religious or national background a person in Lebanon comes from, they are all victims of a destructive war. Unknown future, hardly any education because of the 15-year conflict, unemployment, drugs, etc.

Chamoun, himself a Lebanese with a life experience in the country, said that in the end, most of the people he and Masri spoke to were against the war.

To choose their main people for their films, the team find the personalities who are the most expressive and know how to relay their experience with human sensitivity, Chamoun explained.

"We try to choose the persons who have had miserable experiences that symbolises the experiences of others," the director said, adding that the theme of the film would be clear that they were all victims no matter what they did or believed in.

Although War Generation was approved to be broadcasted on Jordan Television, it was not approved by the censor to be shown at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. (The foundation invited the filmmakers to Amman to screen their films over three days on the occasion of the third anniversary of the intifada).

According to Chamoun, the censor did not understand the fifty-minute documentary because he (the censor) thought it would provoke sectarianism — unconvincing reasons for Chamoun and Masri.

"The film is clear and simple: It is against war, militias and sectarianism and it is expressed by the people involved in the film. Even those who were encouraged with the war in the past are now calling for its end," Chamoun stressed, describing the documentary as "self-critical."

"If honesty bothers some people, it is not our problem," commented Chamoun, who added that the film was broadcast on 26 television stations across the world and will soon be broadcast on JTV — which has a much larger audience than Shoman Foundation.

He added that the reason Lebanon exploded fifteen years ago was because there were political and social problems that were not publicly addressed, which eventually led to the civil strife.



Jean Chamoun and Mai Masri are seen shooting a scene for one of their documentaries.

Children of Fire

Children of Fire, which was screened before a full-house at the Philadelphia Cinema Monday and broadcast on both channels on JTV, was an unforgettable experience for Masri, who is also Chamoun's wife.

She recalled her experience of making the film to reporters, saying that she entered the Israeli occupied West Bank with her American passport as if on a private visit. So she had to work while keeping a low-profile in order not to be harassed by the Israeli authorities.

Her experience of returning to her hometown of Nablus after fourteen years was relayed in Children of Fire. But to reporters she spoke of the details of working under the pressure of Israeli occupation. She also described the help she had from her relatives, neighbours and friends in making her three-week filming easier.

"People used to smuggle out the film cartridges when

they were complete," she said. "Although the army had watch-points keeping eyes on the movements of the people, the people were at the same time watching the moves of the army, particularly the women looking out of their windows."

Masri got acquainted with the land she left years ago, and became friends with her relatives and neighbours she had not seen in so long before she started to film. And on the day her Western film crew arrived in Nablus, the son of her uncle's (where she stayed) neighbours, Ayman Jamous was killed by Israeli soldiers. The scenes that followed the death of Ayman at his home were captured on Masri's camera.

After that, Nablus was under curfew and was declared a closed military zone, so Masri took many shots from the window of her uncle's home which overlooked the martyrs' cemetery, the streets and the entire city. Although Masri and her

in the film. She was able to show that the intifada has become a way of life under occupation, especially for children who have become independent of their parents and make their own decisions and take their own initiatives," Masri said.

She chose to concentrate on Hana because of her awareness on life as it has become with the uprising and Fadi because of his wild, but realistic, imagination.

"Fadi was very moody and he had to be in the mood to talk. But when he did talk, it was so imaginative and spontaneous," Masri recalled.

Eighty per cent of Children of Fire was financed by the BBC and telecast in London last October. "The reaction to the film was great. For one week, the BBC was receiving hundreds of telephone calls and letters asking for it to be rebroadcasted," she said.

Chamoun and Masri were recognised by the BBC when they worked on War Generation, which Masri said was a turning point for their work to reach the Western World.

"We always hear about the Holocaust and the suffering of Jews in World War II in Western cinema," Chamoun said. "Where are the films on the Palestinian struggle and the attempts to wipe out the Palestinians? These are people who are struggling for their existence, and films have to be made on them and these films must find the support."

Chamoun stressed the importance of cinema, saying that the images remain in the minds of people for a long time, and that it must be utilised to keep the people in the world aware of this struggle for dignified existence.

The filmmakers, who travel between London, Paris and Beirut, will continue making films about current Arab issues and are now working on a projected film on women in Algeria. Their goal, however, is to make a feature dramatised film.

"We have a responsibility and duty to make a feature film from what we learned through our experiences and what we have seen others live through," Masri said.

Children's book raises awareness of archaeology in Jordan

By Sorene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — A new children's book, part of a joint Jordanian-French effort, was introduced Sunday. The book entitled "Excavation In The Valley" (Fouilles Dans la Vallée), was written by Genevieve Dollfus, and illustrated by Louise Desrochers.

Both women were members of a Jordanian-French excavation team that worked in Jordan, at Tel Abu Hamed, in 1988.

The book tells the story of a ten year old boy, Hareth, (Anakou in the French version) who spends two days with a Jordanian-French excavation team on one of the locations they are in and learns about the life style and set up of a village dating back 6000 years. The team made up of twelve excavators, explain to the child their work, and tell him stories about the

past history of nomadic tribes in an amusing and attractive way.

"The book is done in such a way that it opens horizons for children and makes them aware of their land and the richness of its archaeological sites", Victor Billeh, president of the National Centre for Educational Research, told the Jordan Times Weekender during a reception to launch the book at the French ambassador's house.

The recently established National Centre for Educational Research, is an affiliate of the Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST). The centre is in charge of co-ordinating the educational reform project currently underway in Jordan, Billeh said. "The centre is working with the Ministry of Education on a reform project that aims at creating and producing books in a

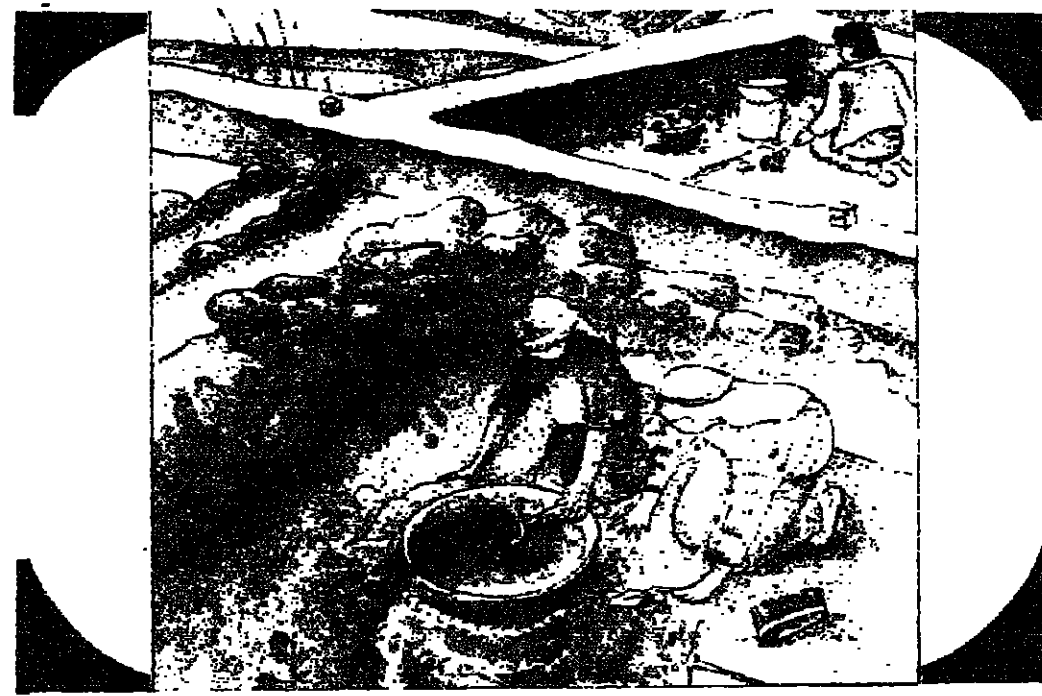
story form that appeals to children".

Four thousand copies of the book in the Arabic version are printed and ready to be distributed to public school libraries. Both the Jordanian and French sides paid for the publication of the books.

According to Billeh, the books, translated to Arabic by Mathila Khalaf, were edited jointly by the National Centre and the Department of Curricula and Textbooks at the Ministry of Education.

"The books were reviewed by the Ministry of Education for school use", Billeh said, adding that minor changes were made from the French version, such as the name of the little boy which was changed to Hareth.

"This book is useful for different children in different cultures", Billeh said. "The books are intended for children under the age of four-



teen". "We hope to see more of this kind of effort in the future", Billeh added.

The book, is the product of a joint effort by the French National Centre for Scientific Research, the French Foreign Ministry, the French embassy in Jordan and the

French Cultural Centre for Near East Archaeology, and the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University.



Mount Everest

Hillary of Everest 'was never tempted to go back'

By Jules Stewart
Reuters

LONDON — Sir Edmund Hillary, first conqueror of Mount Everest, believes in the old adage "you cannot go back."

"Tenzing and I always agreed we would not return to try and climb it again," the 71-year-old New Zealander told Reuters. "We did it and we felt satisfied."

It was on a cloudless morning in May 1953, on the eve of Queen Elizabeth's coronation, that Hillary and his Sherpa guide, Tenzing Norgay, struggled up the final ridge of the 29,028-foot (8,848-metre) Himalayan giant.

Braving arctic temperatures and jetstream winds, encumbered by clothing and oxygen equipment that modern climbers would deem antediluvian, Hillary led the way up the steep snow ridge, gasping for breath and barely able to manage three steps in a row.

"A few more whacks of the ice-axe, a few weary steps, and we were on the summit of Everest," said Hillary, who was in London to attend a gathering of Everest conquerors at the Royal Geographical Society.

The meeting included Everest summiteers Chris Bonington, Doug Scott and Stephen Venables, who are among the hundreds of people who have blundered the mountain since Hillary.

Hillary's first words to his climbing companion George Lowe, waiting to meet the two men on their descent, were "we cracked the bastard."

Those words were flashed round the world and Hillary became an instant celebrity. Yet the rugged, six-foot (1.83-metre) mountaineer does not consider the conquest of Everest the single major event of his life.

"Climbing Everest and the greatest effect on my life as far as the public and media impact were concerned," he said. "But I don't regard it by any means the greatest experience I've had."

For me my trip to the South Pole and expedition up the Ganges River were equally as challenging," he said.

Previous reconnaissance missions and expeditions had approached Everest from the Tibetan north side, as the mountain straddles the borders of Nepal and Tibet. But the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950 put this route off limits to foreigners.

Hillary mounted his assault from the south through what was to become the "classic" route across the treacherous Khumbu Glacier ice fall and up the South Col depression between Everest and its neighbouring peak Lhotse.

Since that historic morning almost 40 years ago Hillary has maintained a deep and passionate relationship with Nepal.

He returns there every year and is revered as a "father figure," having helped to build 26 schools, two hospitals, bridges and other projects in the Sherpa hill country near Everest.

His long friendship with Tenzing ended in 1986, when the Sherpa died at the age of 72.

"It wasn't until the last 10 years of Tenzing's life that I really became extremely friendly with him," Hillary said. One reason was that the Sherpa's command of English improved greatly in those latter years.

"When he climbed Everest we could discuss which ridge to use or the weather conditions," Hillary said. "But it wasn't until a few years ago that we could have a discussion on subjects like the philosophy of the Sherpas, our families or the changes taking place in mountaineering."

An aspect of mountaineering that alarms Hillary is the ecological degradation of the Everest base camp area, a moraine 15,000 feet (4,570 metres) high at the head of the Khumbu ice fall.

Dozens of international expeditions with hundreds of climbers and Sherpas each year leave tonnes of waste at base camp, turning it into a vast rubbish dump littered with plastic bags, tins, boxes and other unwanted gear.

"I was the one who suggested to the Nepalese government that they close down the mountain for three to five years to give it a chance to regenerate," Hillary said.

"They thought it was a good idea, but they just couldn't afford to do that since expeditions bring in so much revenue," he said.

Hillary said his mountaineering days were over. "I'm beyond desperate mountaineering now," he said. "But I'm still involved in mountain walking."

He said the last mountain he was on top of was France's Mount Blanc, at 15,770 feet (4,807 metres) the highest in Europe.

"I was flown up to the summit by helicopter last summer," he said. "I was dressed in ordinary street clothes and it was pretty nippy up there."

Chang knocks Edberg out of Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH (R) — Michael Chang dashed Stefan Edberg's hopes of a \$2-million Christmas bonus Tuesday, dumping the world number one out of the new Grand Slam Cup in the first round.

Edberg, who last month lost the ATP World Championship final in Frankfurt, showed only flashes of the form which has made him the world's top player as he was beaten 6-4 4-6 7-5.

U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras, one of the other hopefuls chasing the \$2-million first prize, came back from one set down to beat Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union 5-7 6-2 7-5 in his first round match despite continuing problems with a shin injury.

The cup, organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) as a showdown between the 16 top players from the four Grand Slam events, offers a total of \$6 million in prize money.

Chang, who helped the United States to beat Australia in the Davis Cup final recently, started badly, losing his first service with a double fault on the second breakpoint.

Both players were disturbed by repeated loud crackling noises from the sound system at Munich's Olympiahalle and Edberg, who has already earned nearly \$2 million this year, dropped his service in the fourth game after one such interruption.

Playing to a half-empty hall and a crowd who appeared to appreciate Spanish Tenor Placido Domingo's performance in the opening ceremony more than the day's tennis, Edberg frequently missed at the net.

Though Edberg had beaten Chang five times in seven previous meetings, the pair had

never before met on a carpet surface.

The Swede went 5-4 up in the deciding set and was serving for the match when Chang broke him to 15.

Though Chang faced more interruptions with the noise of a television commentary box, he held his next serve and reached matchpoint when Edberg produced another double fault.

A backhand service return winner clinched the point and put Chang into the quarter-finals.

Sampras is learning to cope without coach Joe Brandi who has given up touring with the 19-year-old American to spend more time with his family.

He has been growing up fast since becoming the youngest U.S. Open champion in September.

"Here I am, 19 years old and I am hurting," said Sampras, who pulled out of last month's London Indoor Tournament with shin splints.

The American said he was questioning his decision to sign up for the cup, which is not sanctioned by the ATP and carries no ranking points, instead of resting before next month's Australian Open.

Cherkasov, who broke Sampras in the deciding set but then dropped his own serve, was delighted with the biggest pay day of his career.

"It is a reward for my success in the Australian and U.S. Opens," said Cherkasov, who collected \$100,000. He reached the quarter-finals at both events.

Big-serving Goran Ivanisevic, the fifth seed, and American Kevin Curren were both unhap-

py with the line judging in their first-round match and the Yugoslav picked up a warning for ball abuse after being broken on a disputed point in the second set.

But Ivanisevic, a semifinalist at Wimbledon, pulled himself together to win 7-6 7-6 and will now meet Sampras in the quarter-finals.

Edberg, who won six titles this year besides Wimbledon, was relieved that the calendar year had come to an end.

"It has been a long year and a tough year and now I can go home and take it easy for a while," he said. "I never like to lose a match but I know that I can go on holiday tomorrow."

He said lack of concentration had been his biggest problem against Chang. "I could play two points well and then I played two points badly," he said.

"It's great to get a good win, a springboard to take me positively into 1991," Chang said. "If you can beat the top people here it shows that you are going to be a threat to them."

"It took time to get back but I am determined to get up to where I used to be."

Chang's most celebrated triumph was a dramatic five-set victory over Edberg in the final at Roland Garros in 1989. But Tuesday's game was far from comparable.

Chang, who faces Frenchman Henri Leconte in the quarter-finals here, is already looking forward to a six-week break from competition. He has plans to play next month's Australian Open.

"I am very excited about the off-season. I have had a lot of first-round defeats this year. I don't settle for second best," he said.



Michael Chang in action

Maradona says he must leave Napoli

NAPLES (R) — Soccer superstar Diego Maradona attacked Napoli coach Alberto Bigon Wednesday for dropping him from the team — and said he had not alternative but to quit the Italian club.

"I think Bigon has gone mad," the fiery Argentine captain wrote in a weekly column for the Naples newspaper Roma.

"Now I can leave under whatever label, as a champion, as a son of a... whatever the label is, that's fine by me," Maradona said.

"But let it not be said that only Maradona is guilty... now all that remains for me to do is to leave."

The stocky midfielder said Bigon's decision not to let him play in a Napoli-Atalanta league game last weekend because he had missed training was "the last straw."

In the past year Maradona has taken unauthorized holidays, refused to play in key matches and repeatedly failed to show up for training. He is also embroiled in a legal battle with the club.

Maradona, criticised by Italy's sports press for his off-pitch prima donna behaviour, came under fire from the Vatican's newspaper Tuesday.

The Osservatore Romano, which usually concerns itself with international and religious affairs, said in an article headlined "The decline of a star" that Argentinean Maradona was "a champion only at the stadium."

"He has not known how to carry out the responsibility expected of every well-known sports figure, (who) must be a positive example for the young."

Barcelona's Stoichkov suspended for cleating referee

MADRID, Spain (AP) — FC Barcelona leading scorer Hristo Stoichkov was suspended for 10 weeks Tuesday for protesting a call and then cleating a referee during a recent Supercup loss to Real Madrid.

But Dutch coach Johan Cruyff, who also was ejected from the match, will be on the Barcelona bench Wednesday during the return-leg match in Madrid, Spanish Soccer Federation Judge Jose Javier Forcen ruled.

Forcen said that Stoichkov, whose seven goals helped Barcelona forge a four-point league lead, intentionally stomped on referee Idelfonso Urizar Azpitarte's foot during the 1-0 loss on Dec. 5.

The Bulgarian received a two-month suspension for the physical contact, along with a two-match sanction for the protests that led to his ejection. The

rookie striker was also fined a total of 718,000 pesetas (\$7,610).

It was the maximum allowable suspension for a "violent action" under Spanish Federation rules, but fell short of the six months Stoichkov could have received if the judge had labelled it "an aggression."

The judge gave Cruyff a one-week suspension, which he served out last week.

He also opened an investigation into Barcelona's charges that Real Madrid's Mexican striker, Hugo Sanchez, made obscene gestures to the crowd at Barcelona's Camp Nou Stadium after the Supercup match.

The Supercup pits the current Spanish Cup holder against the defending league champion.

Barcelona is five points ahead of Real Madrid in the league standings after 11 rounds.

IOC keeps door ajar for S. Africa

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (R) — A fact-finding trip to South Africa next year would be vital for the country's chances of being re-admitted for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch has said.

"After that mission we will be more able to decide about the possible readmission of South Africa to the Olympic movement," the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president told a news conference.

Samaranch was speaking at

the end of a three-day IOC executive board meeting in this Norwegian town which will host the 1994 Winter Olympics.

He said the IOC had decided not to accept any new member countries until after the 1992 games because a ceiling of 10,000 athletes had been set for Barcelona.

But the decision did not apply to South Africa, he said.

"South Africa would not be a new member. If they can come back to the games again it would be a question of readmission,"

not admission," he said.

South Africa was expelled from the Olympic movement in 1970 because of its apartheid policies.

Samaranch said in September that political changes which have already taken place in South Africa indicated that the republic would be readmitted to the Olympics in time for the 1996 games.

The possibility of an even earlier return was raised Sunday when the IOC said it would make its first official visit to the white-ruled country for 20 years.

Torpedo Moscow reaches UEFA quarterfinals

MONACO (R) — Goals in the final 20 minutes by Yuri Tishkov and substitute Alexander Gitselov earned Torpedo Moscow a 2-1 win over Monaco and a place in the UEFA Cup quarterfinals.

Torpedo won the third round tie 4-2 on aggregate.

Monaco, who had reached the last eight in their previous two

European campaigns, dominated much of the match.

But Torpedo's swift counterattacks proved fruitful in the 70th minute when Tishkov headed in a left wing cross from defender Gennadi Grishin.

Monaco kept alive their hopes of taking the tie into extra time

when Ramon Diaz headed an 83rd-minute equaliser.

But as Monaco pushed forward in search of a second goal they were caught again on the break.

Gitselov, who had replaced Zhukov at halftime, found himself unmarked in front of goal and he sealed victory with a fine lob.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Crisis hits China's film industry

PEKING (R) — China's film-makers, their industry in crisis, are once again caught in the crossfire between conservative and liberal factions of the ruling Communist Party.

Although China's film industry has had an international impact with such award-winning features *Hibiscus Town* and *Black Snow*, fewer directors are shooting now because of stricter censorship, lack of money and tighter political control.

Their plight reflects the greater power struggle at the top of the Communist Party that has not been resolved since the army crushed pro-democracy protests in Peking last year.

Film bureau chief Teng Jinxian, the most senior party voice in cinema circles, fired the opening shot in a recent article in the popular film magazine *China Screen*.

Teng condemned what are called "the five wrong trends" in feature film production — all of them caused by Western influence.

"The more ploughing and weeding, the better crop," he said, referring to the need for tighter ideological control.

China usually makes 150 films a year. This year's target was 100 and film sources said fewer than 20 had been shot by October.

Censors are slow and scared of making political errors. Film studios have overspent on military epics which glorify the revolution, and on films glorifying the exploits of Chinese leaders but fail to make money at the box office.

"It's too tiring to make films these days, too much trouble, too little reward," said a "fifth generation" film director of the new genre. "It makes more sense to make TV adverts. It's cheap and makes money."

Teng said there had been a flagrant disregard of ideology in preparing feature film productions and that aesthetic value and entertainment had become the first consideration when allocating a budget.

This dangerously ignored "cinema's social uplift capability" which was best served by a return to revolutionary epics steeped in heroism or stirring tales of Socialist construction.

Teng said 60 per cent of all feature films produced in 1989 ignored the "reality of life" and that positive images of workers, peasants and soldiers had been replaced by characters representing the negative dregs of society.

Screens filled with images of bandits, smugglers and thieves only undermined the nation's proud moral position, he said.

Teng attacked certain directors for their preoccupation with sexual themes which he said clearly contradicted the nation's correct social structure.

Directors concede that once-taboo subjects such as rape, abortion and adultery have become essential ingredients in studio attempts to spice up products in line with changing consumer tastes.

Teng also criticised the "self-inflation of extreme bourgeois individualism," an allusion to the idea of art for art's sake which contravenes the Maoist dictum that it should serve the revolution.

The culprits must be punished, said Teng who despite his tirade is still regarded by some Chinese intellectuals as wanting to preserve the internationally-recognised achievements of China's film industry.

The final target of Teng's attack was one which can find support from most quarters within the industry, the overt emphasis on "money worship" which he said had led to a decline in film quality.

As his words went into print, young workers in the film bureau were attending the first of three-weekly political study sessions spread over a year which have replaced the ineffective countryside "sabbaticals" assigned to colleagues a year ago.

Ding Qiao, in charge of film production, planning and censorship, said last month directors should emulate the spirit shown by athletes in the Asian Games staged in Peking.

"Previously we said love is an eternal theme. I say patriotism is an eternal theme," Ding said, quoted in *China Film Weekly*.

The polemics have left many Chinese film-makers pondering their future prospects.

A number of well-known directors including Wu Tianming, who shot *Old Well*, and Huang Jinxian of *Black Cannon Incident* are now based overseas.

But despite the recent attacks and pessimistic predictions, new talent is filtering through to the studio floor.

Film sources point to a new movie provisionally entitled *Good Morning Peking* which examines the social outlook of a group of typical Peking residents working on public buses.

This polished and subtle comment on contemporary urban life was shot a crew drawn mainly from 1989 film graduates, a healthy sign for the industry's future.

Shake-up in TV world

By Katia Sabat

CAIRO — The circular-strapped radio and television building overlooking the Nile has never seen anything like it. The venerable institution is shaking to its very foundations: Dust is flying, heads are rolling and the days that used to drift gently past like the peaceful eternal river below are definitely over.

The man who is wielding the almighty broom is none other than Mamdouh Al Leici, 53. With close to three decades in the Egyptian television and film business, he is a veteran of the most prolific entertainment industry in the Arab World. Named a few weeks ago director general of the Production Departments, a newly created post, Leici immediately set about revitalising the operation. Run more like a bureaucracy than a production house for decades, the radio and TV offices had become too heavy, inefficient and swamped by a plethora of inactive civil servants.

Leici took the bull by the horns. In a bid to cut costs and face competition from newly-introduced foreign cable companies, he started by slashing the salaries of top actors by up to 65. The move provoked an outcry among the country's leading stars and walkouts by actors.

Although the Gulf crisis has caused belt-tightening in Egypt's neighbours which were important clients of its movie industry, the burly director argues it was not the main reason for the cuts: "Regardless of what the actors say, the Gulf crisis is not the reason for my decision. The crisis that has affected the Egyptian cinema

industry for years is due to the very fact that actors' fees have reached levels that are totally out of proportion with production costs and profit margins," he said.

According to Leici, the problem started in 1979 when Egypt was ostracised by Arab nations for signing the Camp David peace treaty with Israel. "Egyptian television stopped exporting to the Gulf countries. At the same time, these countries wanted to continue seeing their favourite stars, so they created production companies and offered to pay them fees that were sky high. Fees skyrocketed and reached levels that were unjustified given the crisis that had hit the television industry in the Arab World," he said.

"If I am to resolve the crisis in today's movie and TV industries, and I firmly intend to, I have to cut production costs. A big chunk of the budgets goes into paying leading actors."

Whether Leici survives the current torrent of protest he unleashed remains to be seen but his gritty determination is well-known. When he was still in high school he stood out for his daring and imagination. In the early 1950s during the political turmoil that followed Egypt's independence, he produced, wrote and published an underground pamphlet, and managed to make a small profit. He continued to write during his university years, making a name for himself with his propensity for controversial issues.

A short period of tainting in the police force was enough for him to realise he was on the wrong track. He gave up

the job and prospects of secure employment that went with it and enrolled in Egypt's cinema institute, graduating three years later, in 1963, with flying colours, first of his screenwriting class. He was 26.

From then on his career progressed steadily. "I started writing adaptations for TV series but took care to choose novels written by experienced and popular writers. Then I wrote my own movie, *Taxi*. It got the first prize in an international competition in which 72 countries took part," he recalls. The award confirmed him as one of the top screenwriters of his generation and Leici went on to adapt many of the works of Nobel literature laureate Naguib Mahfouz.

He rose in the ranks of the television world and was named leader of the film-maker's union. His current position puts him at the same level as a deputy secretary of state, giving him the clout necessary to revamp an organisation described by some as lazy and bloated. Leici wants to wean it from state financing and turn it into a competitive enterprise. In addition, Leici is under pressure to keep standards high to satisfy international demand for Egyptian movies and TV programming.

"We have had a lot of problems, but the main thing was to impose some form of discipline," he stresses. "This is vital if any administration is to function efficiently." At the same time, Leici had to protect the interests of the people who were not responsible for the way in which the system was set up, when Egypt's social policies

created an overblown public sector now employing about 4 million people.

"I tried to keep people in their own jobs as much as possible and I simply shifted others away from areas that were over-staffed to place them in areas that lacked talented people," Leici said. Nevertheless, the new director general was soon called "dictator" in the corridors of the land-mark building on the Nile. Some were shocked by the money spent on redecorating his ultra-modern office, while others accuse him of choosing assistants in an arbitrary fashion and of blocking the work of writers he doesn't like by putting it through endless selection committees.

"I choose the best. It is a must for a producer," he argues. "At the same time, I encourage new talent in all fields, from directors to photographers, producers, set designers and naturally screenwriters and actors. In fact I'll encourage anyone who can contribute to improving the standard of the industry, because even if it is booming, it always needs new talent."

The Egyptian TV industry will need all the strength it can muster to compete with the foreign stations that have recently been authorised to broadcast in the country. They will vie for a public who used to get programmes from three stations in Cairo, one in Alexandria, all of which are state-run.

"This is the dawn of a new era in communications," Leici notes. "We are going to have new channels with



Well-entrenched Egyptian TV will never be the same after Mamdouh Al Leici finishes his reorganisation.

foreign programmes like news from the American channel CNN (Cable News Network) and CFI (France's Canal Francais International). Soon Egyptians will be able to access dozens of new channels with satellite dishes. I am not worried about the competition quality-wise, but quantity-wise, it's quite a challenge."

The Egyptian public will remain loyal to home-produced movies and its national stars, he predicts with confidence. "I am optimistic! Foreign competition can only set an example and

stimulate our producers and in that sense, it is not a danger. In fact, we have been re-transmitting foreign programmes and movies from the beginning."

CNN is available on a paid subscription basis while Egyptian television will re-transmit a selection of French programmes six hours a day. Concludes Leici: "I am sure that the vast majority of Egyptians will not be attracted to the type of show that have nothing to do with their education, traditions and morals" — World News Link.

National Gallery features the glory of Flemish master Van Dyck

By Robert M. Andrews
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A daring portrait of a 17th-century English nobleman and his bride, posing as scantily clad figures from ancient mythology, is part of a major new exhibition of paintings by Flemish master Anthony Van Dyck at the National Gallery of Art.

The unusual portrait, curators say, was only recently discovered by a London art dealer in a private European collection. It is one of only three canvases that Van Dyck is known to have painted during his first, brief visit to England in 1620, when he was barely 21.

The portrait, titled "Sir George Villiers and Lady Katherine Manners as Adonis and Venus," is among more than 100 paintings and oil sketches that appear in the exhibition, which opened on Nov. 11 and runs through Feb. 24.

Roger Mandle, deputy director of the National Gallery, characterised the show as a "major event of this century" in the art world for its unparalleled view of the breadth of Van Dyck's artistic genius.

Mandle said the exhibition, which marks the 350th anniversary of Van Dyck's death at age 42, is the first retrospective of his works since 1894 and the most comprehensive ever mounted. It will appear only in Washington.

The pictures were obtained from 54 public museums and private collections in 13 countries, including the State Hermitage Museum in Leningrad and several loans from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. Ten of the 17 Van Dyck's from the National Gallery's permanent collection also are displayed.

Curators Arthur Wheelock of the National Gallery and Susan Barnes, senior curator of Western art at the Dallas Museum of Art, said the show not only confirms Van Dyck's pioneering work as a portrait painter but reveals his brilliance as a transcendent interpreter of history through biblical and mythological scenes.

"We thought we knew Van Dyck, but to our great surprise he suddenly emerged as a different entity than we had ever expected," Wheelock said. "He was not just a portraitist but a great artistic genius."

Barnes called him "one of the most naturally gifted artists who ever lived," whose precocious gifts are seen in a striking portrait of an old man, completed when Van Dyck was only 14.

He studied under Rubens and regarded Titian as his guiding star, but went beyond both artistic giants to develop a new, highly personal style of his own. His journey carried him from his native Antwerp and Italy to maturity as court painter for England's Charles I.

Unlike those of his predecessors, Van Dyck's paintings stressed the emotional interplay between people through expressive gestures and movements. The artist's style was characterised by uncommon grace and elegance and rich colours frequently used in background tapestries.

Van Dyck's work influenced a host of later portraitists, including Sir Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough of England and America's John Singer Sargent.

The highlights of the National Gallery show include Van Dyck's last religious painting, a "Lamentation" that is reunited for the first time since the 17th century with the portrait of the man who commissioned it, diplomat Abbe Scaglia of Antwerp.

For all his daring, Villiers might have balked at public display of such an intimate portrait, which was unprecedented in English or Flemish paintings of that period.

Until now, the Van Dyck portrait had never appeared in a museum exhibition in its 370-year history, Barnes said.

Imagine all the product — Lennon 10 years gone

By Rick Hampson and Larry McShane
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Imagine coffee mugs and tote bags. Imagine greeting cards and prescription eyewear. Imagine doodles turned into limited-edition prints.

In the 10 years since John Lennon's murder, such items have become part of the legacy of the ex-Beatle, eternal rebel and author of such songs as *Revolution*, *Working Class Hero* and *Gimme Some Truth*.

Lennon's death on Dec. 8, 1980, ended his comeback after five years as a reclusive homebody. But his name, face and voice are still out and about, thanks largely to the enthusiastic efforts of his widow.

"Since 1981, I promised myself and ... the fans that I would keep on dish out something of John's every year," Yoko Ono said in an interview a few days before Lennon's 50th birthday on Oct. 9. "I simply don't like the idea that John would just become a library item."

A library item, no. But posthumously, Lennon has become a cottage industry. Living in the cottage, of course, is Ono — and her constant companion, Sam Havardroy.

Their office, Studio One, is on the ground floor of the Gothic dakota apartment house where Lennon was killed as Yoko looked on. The wall behind Havardroy's desk is covered with Lennon's photos and album covers — a reminder of who still makes the money here.

Ono was never involved in the flood of low-budget merchandise immediately after Lennon's death. She spent her days holed up in the dakota with son Sean. But a year after the slaying, Ono was back running the Lennon empire.

She ended the 1980s with a reported net worth of \$500 million. Yet she says "bad karma" dogged her through the decade: Double Fantasy producer Jack Douglas collected about \$2.7 million in a settlement with Ono after using her for royalties.

"Elephant's Memory," the back-up band at Lennon and



John Lennon

Ono's 1972 Madison Square Garden concert, sued for \$70 million claiming in the process that Yoko was musically so inept that her keyboard was unplugged during the show.

— Ono had to pay an undisclosed amount to the writers of the song "Makin' Whoopee" for copyright infringement in her own song,

I'm Your Angel.

In his acerbic biography, *The Lives Of John Lennon*, Albert Goldman depicted the legend as a vain, anorexic hypocrite who spent much of the last five years of his life in a drugged haze.

On the night of Dec. 8, 1980, John Lennon was returning home with Ono after a session for her *Walking On Thin Ice* single. He stepped from the limousine and moved toward the entrance of the dakota apartments.

A demented fan, Mark David Chapman, was waiting on the sidewalk. After Lennon passed him, he opened fire with a pistol. Chapman is serving a prison sentence of 20 years to life.

But even as John Lennon died, his legend had been born. Lennon and Ono's *Double Fantasy* LP was climbing to the top of the charts.

Magazines were filled with Lennon's story: How he and Ono rescued their relationship after Lennon's 18-month "lost weekend" in Los Angeles in the mid-'70s; How he took several years off to help raise his son, Sean; How

he had agonised about ever recording and playing again.

His benign image was shattered with the publication of Goldman's 719-page barrage. Goldman's Lennon was a violent Liverpool thug who descended into a Howard Hughes-like world of drugs and paranoia.

Lennon was married to his first wife Cynthia when he met Ono at a London art show in the late '60s. In short order, Lennon divorced his wife, married Yoko and, in 1970, left the Beatles. John and Yoko collaborated on everything: Bed-ins, avant-garde films, music and finally a son, Sean, born in 1975.

Five years later, Lennon told the woman he called "mother" it was time to make music again. *Double Fantasy* followed just before John's death, although it was not to be Lennon's swan song.

Since 1980, Lennon — or, more accurately, Ono — has released five albums: *Milk And Honey*, *Menlove Ave.*, the movie soundtrack *Imagine*, the John Lennon — *Live In New York* collection

and a boxed CD collection for Christmas '90.

In addition, "The lost Lennon Tapes," featuring hours of unreleased Lennon music, became a popular syndicated radio programme.

Ono has overseen all these projects. "People ask me, 'what would he have done in the '80s?' I say, 'let's talk about what he has done in the '80s,' because he has definitely," she said. "In spirit, I think he's alive, and we're getting the benefit."

Others charge Ono with turning her memories into millions without concern for Lennon's image. A *Fame* magazine profile derided her as "the merry widow" the now-defunct weekly 7 Days described her as the decade's "premier celebrity civil defendant."

None of Ono's alleged faults are apparent in an interview. In October, a barefoot Ono greeted a visitor to the dakota in a high-ceilinged first-floor room with white carpet and black onyx walls. Curled up on a chair, she serenely sipped herbal tea from a mug decorated with a



Yoko Ono with her son Sean

Lennon drawing of John and Yoko with the inscription, "grow old with me."

The mug is one of an assortment of Lennon collectibles available (by appointment only) from Bag One Arts Inc., the entity that controls reproductions of Lennon's art work. Where does all the money from the products go?

"Yoko is very funny about (saying) where the money goes. ... But some goes to the Spirit Foundation," said Lynne Clifford, who runs Bag One For Ono. The foundation, established before

John's death, has contributed to causes ranging from a home for drug addicted children to bulletproof vests for police officers.

Back at the dakota, Ono receives a familiar question: Is this all commercialism? Has the iconoclastic ex-Beatle been sold out?

She laughs. "No, I didn't sell out John. And I'm sure John would be happy I'm still keeping him out there. ... There's a commercial aspect, yes, but I mean, why not? I was a partner, and I still feel that I'm a partner."

Eastern Europeans urged to quit smoking

By Drusilla Menaker

The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — An international group of doctors have launched an anti-smoking campaign for Eastern Europe, where cigarettes kill some 40 per cent of the 1 million middle-aged men who die annually.

"One thing we should particularly cherish is the freedom from widespread nicotine addiction," they advised Eastern Europe's new democracies.

Participants at the "Tobacco-Free New Europe" congress recently acknowledged that the habit will be hard to kick in smoke-filled Eastern Europe, where cigarettes are one of the few luxuries available.

"We have to make the problem real when it doesn't

seem that way," Dr. Richard Peto of Oxford University in England said at the end of the conference organised by the International Union Against Cancer.

In Eastern Europe, domestic state-produced cigarettes are strong and cheap — 35 U.S. cents a pack in Poland — most of them produced without filters of low-quality tobacco with high tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide.

There are no warnings on packages or advertisements, and an estimated 40 per cent of Polish doctors smoke.

Offering a cigarette is a social courtesy, and American brands have long served as an unofficial currency in some of the countries. Virtually every restaurant, train station and party is hazy with smoke, and it's rare for anyone to ask, "do you mind?"

Post-Communist governments are beginning to tackle a host of problems long recognised in the West, but smoking isn't one of them. Peto said.

"People believe that other things are more important — air pollution, stress, eating habits — but these things are trivial in comparison," he said.

Among men who die between the ages of 35 and 69, tobacco is the cause for 40 per cent of the deaths in Poland, 39 per cent in Czechoslovakia and 35 per cent in Hungary, according to Peto.

In Poland, for example, 55 per cent of men and 29 of women smoke, a rate conference chairman Dr. Michael Wood compared with Britain 25 years ago before smoking levels there dropped.

In Eastern Europe, the

rate of women smokers is growing rapidly, with 60 per cent of those 30 to 34 years old taking up the habit in Poland, Wood said.

The region's highest per-capita cigarette consumption rate for those 15 years and older is 3,286 cigarettes in Poland, trailing only Cyprus, Cuba and Greece worldwide, according to the European Bureau for Action on Smoking Prevention in Brussels.

International tobacco companies, with sales declining in the West, see a vast new market in the former East Bloc and Soviet Union.

The state-run tobacco monopolies are being broken up, and Western producers are eagerly negotiating sales, licensing and joint venture agreements. When a tobacco shortage last summer threatened social unrest in

the Soviet Union, two companies quickly negotiated a \$34 billion cigarette export deal.

Cigarette advertising is technically illegal in Poland and elsewhere, but Western tobacco company trademarks are not hard to find. A symbol of the West, they are often used for decoration. In Warsaw, at least one tram is painted to look like a Marlboro carton.

They nearly 100 doctors attending the anti-smoking conference called on Eastern European governments to introduce or enforce bans on tobacco ads.

In a letter to U.S. President George Bush, the Eastern European delegations asked for help in controlling smoking and enforcing limitations on tobacco company marketing.

They said a substantial

"health tax" should be imposed on cigarettes, to provide revenues for anti-smoking programmes while increasing the price to reduce consumption.

Smoking's popularity, especially Western brands, dates to the foreign aid packages of chocolate and cigarettes welcomed after World War II. Said Dr. Witold Zatonski of the Polish delegation.

"You can imagine how good a Camel seemed after the war in a country without any kind of relaxation, said Zatonski.

For younger people, cigarettes are a link with the West. "A cowboy smoking Marlboro or a trapper inhaling a Camel seemed to say, 'One cigarette and you'll come to places as exotic as we are,'" a conference report said.

New treatment for major depression 'can change lives'

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new way of using an old medicine may change the lives of millions who suffer recurrent major depression, a mental illness that often leads to suicide, a new study says.

"For most of these individuals, the future was a coin toss as to whether they would stay well or not, or if they could plan to do something that required energy and the ability to think clearly," said Ellen Frank, a University of Pittsburgh therapist who directed the study.

"Their lives were really held hostage to this disorder because they would get depressed again and again," she said.

An experimental treatment programme showed that high, daily doses of the drug Imipramine can keep 80 per cent of patients from suffering the extreme, periodic depths of what is called unipolar depression. About 2.5 million people in the United States suffer from the disease.

The therapy, Frank said, may restore hope to lives that have been centred on the dreadful anticipation of episodes of deep depression every 1½ to two years.

Frank, lead author of a report in the current issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry, said Imipramine had been used for more than 15 years to treat episodes of depression.

But she said the drug usually was given when the depression starts, then slowly withdrawn after the episode was over.

Most patients with recurrent major depression then would have another episode within a few months and the drug treatment would start all over.

To test a new way of using the drug, Frank and her colleagues selected 128 patients

who suffered from the recurrent depression.

In a double-blind study, 28 of the patients were given Imipramine daily at the high dose used for treating a depression episode. Twenty-three were given placebo, or capsules containing a phony drug.

A group of 26 received no medicine, but were in personal talking therapy, another 26 got both therapy and placebo, and a final group got therapy and the full-dose of Imipramine.

At the end of three years, 80 per cent of the patients on full doses of Imipramine remained free of depression for the entire period. Those who received only the placebo had just a 20 per cent chance of remaining free of episodes.

"We can now tell people that the dose of antidepressant that gets you well will keep you well," Frank said.

The study found that monthly sessions of the personal talking therapy reduced the incidence of depression by about 50 per cent.

Alan I. Leshner, acting director of the National Institute of Mental Health, said the new use of Imipramine was "a breakthrough in the treatment of a common and devastating form of depression."

Frank emphasised that the patients treated with the drug were not merely people enduring the mood swing "that everybody has," but those who suffered a depression that is one of the most common among suicide victims.

"We're talking about a change in mood that is accompanied by major changes in sleep, appetite, motivation and self-esteem," she said.

Frank said unipolar depression episodes have, only "lows" and the illness is different from the so-called manic depression where patients have both unreasonable "high" and extreme lows.

Artery disease may result from misguided immune system

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

DALLAS — The body's own defences against disease can go awry and attack proteins that carry cholesterol through the body, triggering the dangerous buildup of artery-clogging deposits that causes heart attacks, researchers have reported.

Dr. William Hollander of Boston University said his latest research supports the idea, which he pioneered two decades ago, that hardening of the arteries is an autoimmune disease, the body's misguided destruction itself.

"I would say that our findings indicate that immune factors play a key role in the formation of the fibrous lesions that are the fundamental

cause of heart attacks and strokes," Hollander said.

Hollander's theory has become a hot topic of research in recent years as doctors try to identify the forces that cause the blood vessels to fill up with fatty deposits like rust-encrusted pipes.

This process, which doctors call atherosclerosis, results in a heart attack or stroke if a clot accidentally squeezes off the flow of blood entirely.

Several other research teams around the world also are finding signs that antibodies and other proteins of the body's immune system play a role in triggering or speeding up this disease.

"I consider that he (Hollander) is being vindicated for studies he began many years ago," said Dr. Robert Wissler of the University of Chicago.

"This all now seems to fit together into a rather important accelerating factor in relation to atherosclerosis."

Hollander presented his latest evidence at the annual scientific meeting of the American Heart Association. About 26,000 doctors and other health professionals were in Dallas to hear more than 3,000 scientific presentations.

Blood cells ordinarily produce antibodies to fight foreign invaders, such as bacteria and viruses. But Hollander's research suggests that in atherosclerosis, the body produces antibodies that seek out one variety of lipoprotein, the molecules that transport cholesterol through the body.

As a result, cholesterol is trapped in the blood vessel walls, contributing to the

damaging buildup. The process is further accelerated by other disease-fighting chemicals that are called into action by the misdirected antibodies.

Hollander has studied the process in both people and research animals. In the animals, his evidence suggests that the autoimmune mistake is at play in the deposit of fatty streaks on blood vessel walls. This is considered to be the earliest stage of atherosclerosis and in people occurs during childhood.

In his latest research, conducted in people, Hollander found that the antibodies are targeted solely against an abnormal form of Apolipoprotein B, one of the body's major cholesterol-carrying proteins. Just why some people make a mutant

form of this protein, and whether or not it is passed on through the genes, are still not known.

However, the finding could help explain why some people with seemingly healthy levels of cholesterol in their blood get heart disease, while others escape trouble despite high levels. Hollander said an autoimmune attack on the abnormal Apolipoprotein B could be a factor in their heart problems.

The research also raises the possibility of finding new ways to treat and perhaps prevent atherosclerosis. Hollander said drugs that suppress the immune system or fight inflammation may both be useful if an erroneous immune response is a major cause of artery disease.

Wissler added that research

ers may someday also be able to routinely perform blood tests to check people for the damaging antibodies.

"Once we have good methods for detecting in the clinical laboratory the presence of autoimmunity in the artery and the blood, it will uncover another major risk factor," Wissler said. "I think sustained circulation of immune complexes is a major risk factor for atherosclerosis."

Hollander said that antibodies latch onto mutant Apolipoprotein B to form so-called immune complexes. The presence of these combinations in turn signals other proteins, called complement, to churn out inflammatory chemicals that further damage the arteries.

EC eyes plan to guarantee pregnant women 14 weeks on full pay

By Sydney Robin
The Associated Press

LONDON — Women in the European Community, who already receive some paid maternity leave, would be guaranteed at least 14 weeks of fully paid leave under a proposed European Parliament directive.

The parliament's Committee on Women's Rights passed a draft directive granting the 14-week minimum last week. The directive also bars dismissals because of pregnancy.

"This directive stops women from being penalised for what is a normal part of a

woman's life," said Christine Crawley, chairwoman of the committee and a Labour EC parliamentarian from Britain.

"It will result in a lot more British women having the same career opportunities as men. It is a major breakthrough."

In contrast, there is no federal law in the United States granting maternity leave, paid or unpaid, or guaranteeing a job on return, according to the U.S. Labour Department. However, it said 30 states have laws that grant unpaid leave ranging from six weeks to one year.

"It's not a question of pay.

We're the only Western industrialised country that does not permit job-protected leave," said U.S. Representative Patricia Schroeder, prime sponsor of the Family and Medical Leave Act in the United States.

Congress passed the legislation earlier this year. It provides 10 to 12 weeks unpaid leave, but U.S. President George Bush vetoed it. The U.S. administration argued that it was not the government's role to dictate how private industry dealt with employees.

"If that argument were taken to logical conclusion,

there would be no health or safety standards at all at work," Mrs. Crawley said.

All 12 European countries already provide some form of paid maternity leave, but British women have the most to gain.

Under existing British law, women are entitled to six weeks leave at 90 per cent of regular pay followed by an additional 12 weeks at £39.25 (\$74.50) per week.

French women, by comparison, have 16 weeks leave at full pay. Germany grants 14 weeks at 100 per cent pay, and Denmark offers 28 weeks at 90 per cent pay.

The directive was to be

considered by parliament during its next full session on Dec. 10-14. It then goes to the EC Council of Ministers for approval. If approved, it has the force of law throughout the community after Dec. 31, 1992.

One European Parliament official said the chance of passage was "better than excellent."

Mrs. Crawley said Italy, which holds the rotating EC presidency, hopes to have the maternity directive passed by Dec. 18. Britain is the only member to have expressed reservations, she said.

The new directive also

would provide two weeks compulsory rest before birth. Benefits would apply to any woman working full or part time.

Maternity leave is one of many benefits offered by European governments attempting to encourage women to reproduce. Many governments are concerned by a birth rate that is stable or falling and a population that is graying.

One-third of Europe's 321 million people are over 50. The proportion of over-50s could reach half by the year 2,000, according to some estimates.

Research links maternal smoking to infant lung damage

By Brendan Boyle
Reuters

CAPE TOWN — A South African scientist has found strong evidence that mothers who smoke during pregnancy may condemn their babies to emphysema, an incurable lung disease.

He said that during tests on pregnant rats nicotine equivalent to 10 cigarettes a day

produced a 100 per cent incidence of irreversible lung damage and a clinical diagnosis of emphysema.

"This is all based on tests on rats. I cannot say that if a human mother smoked during pregnancy her child is definitely going to get emphysema as an adult," said Maritz, professor of physiology at the mainly black University of the Western Cape.

near Cape Town. "But the evidence on the basis of this research is very, very strong. I hope people will listen now and not wait for some final clinical proof."

Maritz, a 42-year-old white Afrikaner, said he had been expecting evidence of lung damage but did not expect emphysema, which reduces the body's ability to absorb oxygen.

"But pathologists confirmed the diagnosis in every single case," he said.

"The thing with emphysema is that it develops very slowly, but once it has started there is no stopping it. You can slow it down, but you can't stop it," he said.

Maritz said his initial findings showed no variation in the damage caused by dosages of 10 to 40 cigarettes a day.

He said he could not offer any comfort to mothers who had smoked during pregnancy, but said Vitamin C might mitigate the effect of nicotine in unborn babies.

"Smoking cuts the Vitamin C level in the blood by almost 90 per cent... I found that if I injected Vitamin C nicotine together there was absolutely no damage to the biochemical

pathways." "So if you are planning a baby stop smoking immediately and if you absolutely have to smoke then for heaven's sake take extra Vitamin C. It might just help," he said.

"I have always hated smoking. Perhaps it is because my father smoked very heavily... and died of cancer."

New treatment reduces strokes — researchers

By Michael Gougis
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The rate of death and debilitating strokes from blood vessels that burst in the brain can be significantly reduced by immediate surgery and boosting patients' blood pressure, researchers say.

A study at Loyola University Medical Centre found the two-part treatment re-

duced stroke risk for patients with burst brain aneurysms, which are bubble-like weak points in the brain's blood vessels.

The study was published in November's neurosurgery, the Journal of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

Dr. Jack P. Whisnant, a neurological specialist not connected to the study, said elements of the treatment

have been used for some time, but hadn't been tried together and should be studied further.

An estimated 5 million Americans have brain aneurysms, and about 28,000 a year suffer ruptures. About half of those suffering ruptures die within the first month after a vessel bursts, said Whisnant, chairman of the Mayo Clinic's Health Sciences Research Department.

The Loyola researchers estimated about a third of patients with burst aneurysms suffer serious strokes as a result.

In their study of 43 patients with burst aneurysms, two died and two others suffered strokes, according to the report issued six months after the study ended.

"We initially found that early surgery for an aneurysm minimised the risk of further

bleeding, but did nothing to prevent a patient from later suffering a stroke," Loyola neurosurgeon Dr. Thomas Origiano, the study's lead author, said in a telephone interview Thursday.

That early surgery consists of "clipping" the aneurysm by shutting off the leaking blood vessel.

Early surgery was critical to the two-part treatment's success, the researchers said.

Some neurosurgeons traditionally have waited seven to 10 days to operate after a patient's aneurysm bursts, to see if circulation will stabilise in the brain, Origiano said.

Apart from early surgery, Loyola researchers diluted patients' blood by removing red cells, allowing better circulation within the brain, they said. They then pumped extra blood into the patients to increase blood pressure.

New filter advances efforts to eradicate painful parasite

By David Reed
The Associated Press

VINTON, Virginia — A worldwide campaign to eradicate a painful parasite that infects 10 million people a year has been advanced by the development of a tightly woven fabric that filters out the parasite's larvae.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter is spearheading an effort by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to eliminate the guinea worm parasite by 1995. The parasite exists in water supplies in 17 African nations, Pakistan and India.

The worm travels to the surface of the skin and secretes a poison that causes an extremely painful blister. When an infested person enters a water source — there's often only one per village — the worm ejects hundreds of thousands of larvae back into the water. The cycle begins again when someone drinks the contaminated water.

Whole villages can be incapacitated by the parasite. Victims cannot move about during the 30 days it takes for the worm to exit the body. While infected people rarely die, some are crippled by scarring, arthritis and secondary infection.

Carter said health officials tried digging deep wells to provide uncontaminated water for infected villages but determined that approach took too much time, money and manpower.

They figured the simplest answer would be for entire villages to filter their water to keep the larvae out. But there was no material that

could let maintain its weave while allowing water to pass easily.

Last year Carter asked executives at Dupont, the giant chemical corporation, if they could develop a filter that would last a year — the time needed to disrupt the parasite's life cycle.

Dupont researched more than 30 synthetic fibres before coming up with the nylon yarn used for the guinea worm filters. The yarn is spun by Dupont and woven by Precision Fabric Group (PFG), a specialty fabric maker.

The fabric is then heated to "weld" the weave in place and cut into 12-inch (30-centimetre) squares which villagers place over their pots and cups before pouring water in.

Dupont and PFG are spending between \$2 million and \$3 million over the next five years to manufacture and distribute 9 million of the reusable filters for free. The first shipment arrived in Ghana on Sept. 15.

Pat St. Clair, a fabric inspector for PFG, thinks about an African boy she saw suffering from the parasite as she checks the nylon fabric.

In an educational film, St. Clair watched the boy scream as a string-thin worm more than 2 feet (60 centimetres) long was pulled from a blister on his left calf. About a year before, he drank water containing the worm's larvae.

"It's amazing that a piece of cloth can help save people from that misery," St. Clair said. "I feel proud to be a part of this, getting rid of this worm once and for all."

King

(Continued from page 1)

that our perceptions and our approach as one and the same. You recall that two days ago, and not for the first time, we repeated our conviction that there should be an Arab-Arab dialogue to try to contribute towards resolving the Arab problems in this region, and I believe that the president's mission is along the same lines. So I am very happy indeed to have an opportunity on behalf of all Jordanians to welcome a dear brother and a colleague and at the same time a wise man and a leader who is dedicated to the Arab cause."

In reply to a question about the ongoing debate in the Security Council to reach a resolution on the protection of the Palestinians, the idea of an international conference and the American stand, the King said that it was all up to the United States.

"If the United States wants to play its role and shoulder its responsibility towards all those involved in the problem and implement international legitimacy, then it should respond favourably to the call for an international conference," the King said.

President Benjedid was accorded an official farewell ceremony in which senior government officials took part.

Following the departure of Benjedid, a press statement was issued summing up the outcome of the visit and the talks held between the two leaders. It said:

"The two sides held important talks on the tense situation in the Middle East, with special attention to the Gulf crisis, and the talks revealed an identity of views."

"There is no alternative to achieving a peaceful settlement for this dangerous crisis in the Gulf."

"The two sides welcomed President Bush's initiative of Nov. 30 calling on Iraq to start a dialogue with the United States and also voiced their appreciation of Iraq's initiative of allowing foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait freedom to leave or stay."

"The two sides appealed to all those parties which advocate a military solution to refrain from pursuing such attitudes, specially as Baghdad and Washington have now agreed to embark on a dialogue which could be conducive to the cause of peace."

"The two sides agreed on the need for serious and sincere efforts to start an Arab-Arab dialogue aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis in embodiment of the Arab Nation's aspirations and with a view to safeguarding the future of the coming generations and in commitment to the historic responsibility of the Arab leadership."

"The two sides called on the international community to contribute positively towards resolving the Middle East's problems, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem within the framework of the international legitimacy."

"They said world peace is indivisible and that success of efforts to solve the Gulf issue peacefully is bound to increase the chances for a just and comprehensive peace in the whole area."

"The two sides saluted the Palestinian people's uprising which has now entered its fourth year, stressing their full support for the just struggle of the

Palestinian people to attain their national legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and sovereignty on Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

Benjedid

(Continued from page 1)

dam and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to try to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

After Benjedid's departure, the King told reporters that he was optimistic that inter-Arab talks involving Saddam and leaders of the Gulf states would be held.

"We believe an Arab-Arab dialogue should take place. It will take place, God willing. It is impossible to maintain the status quo," the King said.

Algerian officials accompanying Benjedid on the trip said that he would visit Iran and Oman before he flying to Syria later this week.

The Algerian news agency was quoted by Agence France Presse (AFP) as saying that Benjedid might introduce changes in his travel schedule depending on the outcome of his talks in these capitals.

The agency quoted Algerian diplomats in Amman as saying that the president might visit Saudi Arabia but there was no confirmation of the report.

An Arab diplomat quoted by the AP said Tuesday that Saudi Arabia had agreed to meet with Saddam only after Iraq begins withdrawing from Kuwait.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the diplomat said: "The Algerian president has received assurances from Saudi Arabia that leaders there were willing to discuss... the possibility of convening bilateral Arab meetings which include a Saudi-Iraqi meeting."

Saudi Arabia's official news agency reported that leaders of the kingdom demanded a full Iraqi pullout from Kuwait and said no date has been set for Benjedid's visit to Riyadh.

Quoting an unidentified government spokesman, the agency said: "Saudi Arabia, which has a high respect for the Algerian president, would like to clarify that a date for his visit has not been decided."

It quoted the spokesman as reiterating the kingdom's policy that the ending of the war, as is well known, is in the hands of the Iraqi president" who must withdraw from Kuwait and pull his forces back from their positions near the Saudi border.

King Fahd sent his adviser, Sheikh Ali Ben Muslim, to Algeria twice last week for talks on the crisis. Benjedid had also received Iraqi and Kuwaiti envoys in recent weeks.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal, in Rome to probe the European Community's (EC) position ahead of this weekend's (EC) summit there, said his government's position on the crisis remained firm although it hoped for a peaceful settlement.

"We (Saudi Arabia and Italy) are convinced that a peaceful settlement is in the hands of the Iraqis."

"That is the only side that can allow a peaceful settlement by withdrawing unconditionally from Kuwait and... allowing the return of the legitimate government," he told reporters.

Commenting on Benjedid's efforts, the Saudi minister said an Arab solution already existed within the Arab League.

Referring to the Aug. 13 Arab League summit in Cairo that condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, he said: "Peace can happen if the Arab League summit conference decisions are implemented."

Baghdad has rejected the Cairo summit's conclusions.

The Saudi prince said it was essential that the international community took steps to solve the Palestinian problem when Iraq eventually pulled out of Kuwait, but ruled out any attempts to link the two issues.

"We both (Saudi Arabia and Italy) believe an initiative to settle the Palestinian question must come from the international community after the end of the Iraqi occupation."

"But we have both seen the dangers of falling into the trap of linkages — and thereby preventing both a settlement of the Palestinian question and also an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait."

"We are both convinced that we will avoid that although we remain committed to a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question," he told reporters after talks with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis and Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

De Michelis said he had assured the prince that the position of the EC ahead of planned talks with the Iraqi government next week remained the same as Saudi Arabia's.

"I told him he would insist on the importance of Iraq making a move to secure a peaceful solution and that we would spell out very clearly the conditions which we want to see (Iraq) fulfill," the Italian minister said.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz is due in Rome Dec. 21 or 22 after holding talks with President George Bush in Washington, Baghdad's Rome embassy said in a statement on Wednesday.

The Saudi prince, who is on a European tour, cancelled a Rome news conference he was due to give later Wednesday. No reasons were given and Saudi officials declined to give details of the prince's travel plans.

Titles

(Continued from page 1)

tion. Outspoken Deputy Leith Shubellat protested. "Our speaker's title should not be lower than a minister's," he said. "We have to agree on one, or abolish the titles altogether," he insisted. But there was no response from the usually vibrant, debate-ridden House. None of the deputies wanted, it seems, to lose their title, not even in the new era of democracy. It was learned later, however, that the issue was discussed in drawing-rooms, behind closed doors and at high places. As it turned out, a solution seems to have been found. During the House's last session on Sunday, deputies, and most importantly the prime minister, started addressing the speaker as *seyadat* a title used in Jordan for *shaykh* (singular *shaykh*), or relatives of the royal family. This title is also used widely in the Arab World to address presidents and some prime ministers. *Seyadat*, by the way, means authority, implying loyalty. Abdul Latif Arabiyat has replaced whatever *saadat* got him for a great deal of authority. Some people say authority brings happiness, some say mystery: who knows.

Warning

(Continued from page 1)

linkage, rejected by Washington, between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian question.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, due to hold talks on the Kuwait crisis in Washington shortly, as condemning the U.S. stand in the Security Council as "complete alliance with the Zionist entity, its strategic ally."

He called on Arab states "to press the United States to link Middle East problems, particularly the Palestinian issue, with the current Gulf crisis."

There could be no peace or stability in the Middle East "without the achievement of the just rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and build their independent state," Aziz said.

Azz criticised the Security Council's postponement of a draft resolution to condemn Iraq for the massacre by Israeli forces of over 20 Palestinians in Jerusalem two months ago.

Saddam Hussein Wednesday replaced his defence minister with a commander who was a hero of the war with Iran in the second major shuffle in Iraq's high command in a month, Iraqi official media reported.

The retirement of Gen. Abdul Jaber Khalil Shanshal, came after holding the post for just over a year.

Baghdad Radio named the new defence minister as Maj. Gen. Saadi Tuma Abbas, the inspector-general of the armed forces and a former deputy chief of staff.

The timing of Shanshal's retirement, one month away from the U.N. Security Council's Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait or face a military assault, indicated that Baghdad may not be ready to compromise in the Gulf crisis, analysts said.

U.S. officials have reported a steady buildup of Iraqi forces in Kuwait and southern Iraq in recent weeks.

Abbas, who is in his fifties, was a hero of the 1980-88 war with Iran. He commanded the 3rd Corps in the defence of Basra against the Iranians, who came within a few kilometres of the southern port city.

He was the brains behind the formidable defensive lines built to protect Basra from Iranian human wave assaults. The Iraqis, who have an estimated 150,000 troops in and around Kuwait, have built similar fortifications around Kuwait.

He later commanded the Seventh Corps, which was involved in heavy fighting with the Iranians in the southern Iraq theatre, the main battleground in that conflict.

The decree said Shanshal was retiring because of his age.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted Saddam as telling Shanshal in a letter that he told the general when he appointed him in 1989 "that your assumption of this post would not exceed two years and would not be less than one year."

Shanshal was named a minister of state for military affairs, the post he held before he was appointed defence minister.

Saddam replaced his chief of staff, Lt.-Gen. Nazir Al Khazraji, Nov. 8 in a surprise shuffle.

Khazraji was replaced by Gen. Hussein Rashid, deputy chief of staff for operations and commander of the elite Republican Guards divisions.

He is a hardliner Baathist and comes from Takrit, Saddam's

hometown north of Baghdad. Iraqi civil defence authorities have meanwhile instructed all owners of buildings with two or more floors to prepare basement shelters and mark them with signs 40 centimetres square informing people there is a shelter there in case of war.

Shamir

(Continued from page 1)

diplomatic ties with Israel after the 1967 war. But the two countries have quietly built up large consular missions and have reestablished sporting, cultural and commercial links over the past three years.

Shamir said it was clear Israel would have to respond if attacked by Iraq, even though it is being urged by the United States not to respond to "provocations."

Shamir, on his first visit to Washington in 13 months, received an assurance from Bush Tuesday that the United States would not sacrifice "Israel's interests in pursuing a peaceful conclusion to the Gulf crisis."

After a year of strained relations, the two leaders made a conscious effort to mend fences. The United States also played a facilitating role in arranging the Shamir-Shevardnadze meeting, officials said.

The Soviet Union, effectively excluded from Middle East peace efforts for the past decade, has always made restoration of full ties conditional on Israel accepting an international peace conference of which it would be a co-chairman.

The issue is currently under discussion in the United Nations Security Council where the United States is trying to prevent its inclusion in a resolution calling for the protection of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Shamir also said Israel supported the United States waiving the Jackson-Vanik amendment which blocked the establishment of normal trading relations between the superpowers.

President George Bush later announced waiver of the measure, which was designed to put pressure on the Soviet Union to allow free Jewish emigration, when he met Shevardnadze later Wednesday.

Responding to Shevardnadze's idea of creating a zone in the Middle East free of nuclear and chemical weapons, Shamir said: "Our answer is positive in principle. We are ready to start a serious study of all these problems of disarmament and a free nuclear zone... in order to limit and annihilate any possibility of the use of non-conventional arms in our area."

Israel's traditional position on nuclear weapons has been neither to confirm nor deny having them but to say it would not be the first Middle East state to use them.

But the fast progress of Iraq's nuclear programme and its possession of chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles has alarmed the Israelis.

Dates

(Continued from page 1)

deadline laid down by the United Nations Security Council authorising the use of force against Iraq if it has not withdrawn from Kuwait by then.

"Iraq continues to block agreement on the dates," said Boucher.

Iraq last week accepted in principle President George Bush's proposal to play host to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Washington and send

Baker to Baghdad at mutually acceptable dates prior to Jan. 15. The U.S. charge d'affaires in Iraq, Joe Wilson, has spoken to Iraqi officials several times in the past few days but the discussions have failed to narrow the gap. Boucher said the United States had offered 15 alternatives for the Baker mission and that Iraq had offered only one — Jan. 12.

The latest telephone conversation earlier Wednesday between Wilson and Iraqi Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Nizer Hamdoun failed to elicit any new Iraqi proposals, Boucher said.

"Hamdoun, called to discuss the dates. The Iraqis had no new proposals," Boucher said.

Baker said at the weekend the United States would not be drawn into a protracted process that could render the U.N. deadline meaningless.

"We will not be a party to circumventing the Jan. 15 deadline... and we will not be a party to playing games that back up right up to that deadline," he said.

Palestinian

(Continued from page 1)

testers' stones had been assigned in recent weeks to shoot at stone-throwers' legs.

"This is a monstrous order. Placing snipers at a distance to shoot like hunters at wild geese when self-defence is not at issue is very questionable from the legal aspect," he said.

Diplomatic sources expected the use of snipers against civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to bring renewed criticism from foreign governments and humanitarian organisations.

Spokesmen for the army and Arens said no new orders had been issued but the army's own radio station referred to "new regulations for opening fire on stone throwers" in a report on Tuesday's defence committee session.

Israel Radio quoted army Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron as telling the committee that the decision to deploy snipers had been reached after lengthy debate.

A Palestinian girl was taken to hospital Wednesday in Nablus after rubber bullets hit her in the eye during clashes in the West Bank's Askar refugee camp.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians during stone-throwing incidents in Bureij refugee camp, Palestinians said.

In Arab Jerusalem, police fired tear-gas to break up a march by more than 50 supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) celebrating the 23rd anniversary of the founding of the group.

Demonstrators hurled empty bottles and police arrested nine women. A policeman smashed the head of one woman against a store window before she was taken away.

Jewish zealots said they planned to climb Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif next Monday and rejected charges their attempt in October to enter the Muslim holy site led to the police killing of at least 20 Palestinians.

Italy

(Continued from page 1)

Tareq Aziz at a meeting in Rome next week.

De Michelis said all Western forces, including those of the United States, should leave Saudi Arabia if Iraq withdraws voluntarily from Kuwait.

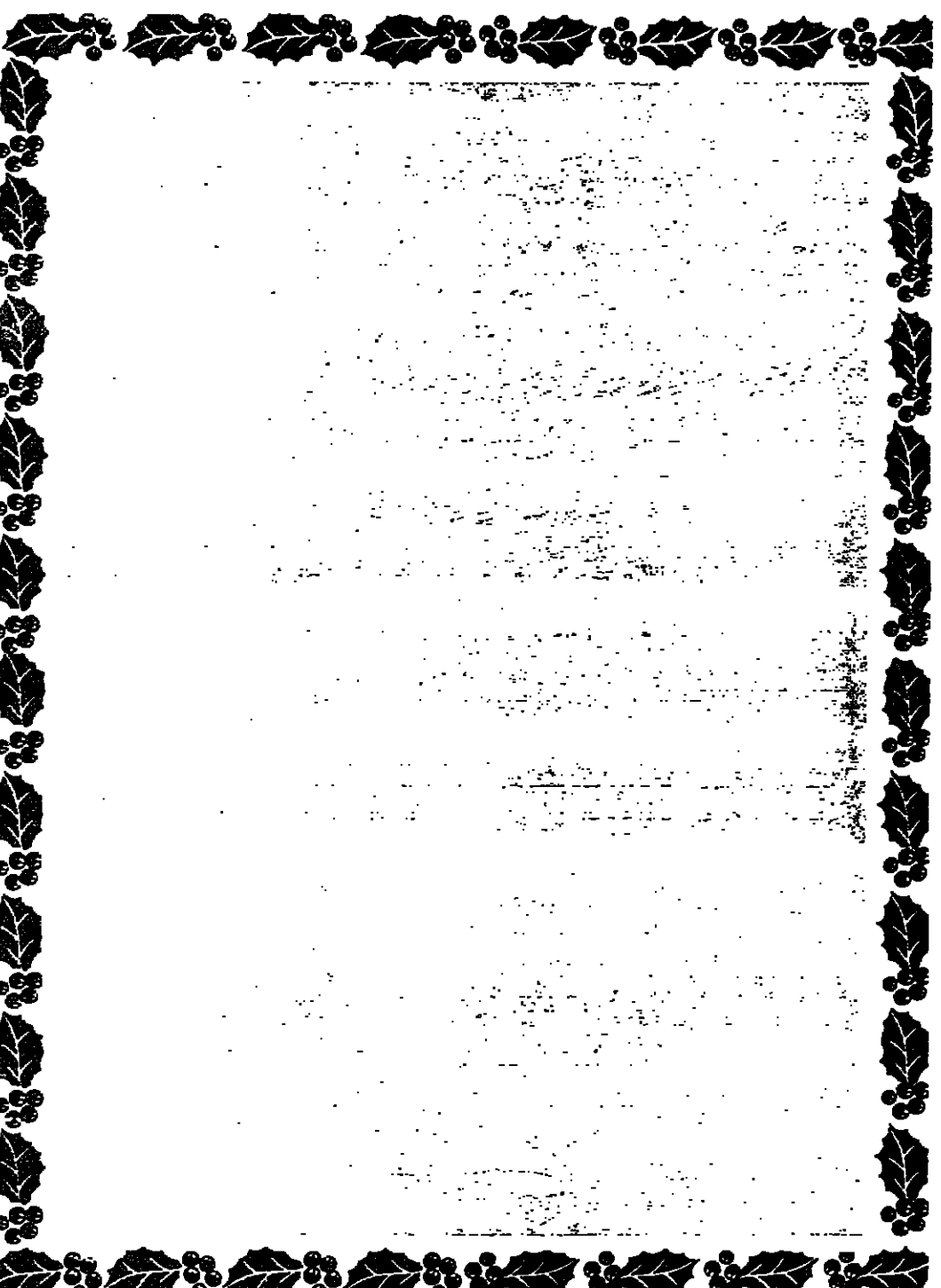
"Iraq has the right to know if the threat of an attack against it will continue even if it leaves Kuwait. This point must be clarified," he said.

Asked about Israeli objections to a joint Italian and Spanish bid to hold a Mediterranean security conference, de Michelis said: "It is true Israel is against but we cannot always allow this country to dictate the present and future of security in the area."

"I think it is necessary from now on to isolate Israel. One has seen with Iraq that isolation can have good results."

Azz will be in Rome Dec. 21-22 for talks on the Gulf crisis, the Iraqi embassy in Rome said Wednesday.

The EC last week invited Aziz to meet with Italian officials following his talks in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.



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Chang knocks Edberg out of Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH (R) — Michael Chang dashed Stefan Edberg's hopes of a \$2-million Christmas bonus Tuesday, dumping the world number one out of the new Grand Slam Cup in the first round.

Edberg, who last month lost the ATP World Championship final in Frankfurt, showed only flashes of the form which has made him the world's top player as he was beaten 6-4 4-6 7-5.

U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras, one of the other hopefuls chasing the \$2-million first prize, came back from one set down to beat Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union 5-7 6-2 7-5 in his first round match despite continuing problems with a shin injury.

The cup, organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) as a showdown between the 16 top players from the four Grand Slam events, offers a total of \$6 million in prize money.

Chang, who helped the United States to beat Australia in the Davis Cup final recently, started badly, losing his first service with a double fault on the second breakpoint.

Both players were disturbed by repeated loud crackling noises from the sound system at Munich's Olympiahalle and Edberg, who has already earned nearly \$2 million this year, dropped his service in the fourth game after one such interruption.

Playing to a half-empty hall and a crowd who appeared to appreciate Spanish Tenor Placido Domingo's performance in the opening ceremony more than the day's tennis, Edberg frequently missed at the net.

Though Edberg had beaten Chang five times in seven previous meetings, the pair had

never before met on a carpet surface.

The Swede went 5-4 up in the deciding set and was serving for the match when Chang broke him to 15.

Though Chang faced more interruptions with the noise of a constantly ringing telephone in a television commentary box, he held his nerve and reached matchpoint when Edberg produced another double fault.

A backhand service return winner clinched the point and put Chang into the quarter-finals.

Sampras is learning to cope without coach Joe Brandi who has given up touring with the 19-year-old American to spend more time with his family.

He has been growing up fast since becoming the youngest U.S. Open champion in September.

"Here I am, 19 years old and I am hurting," said Sampras, who pulled out of last month's London Indoor Tournament with shin splints.

The American said he was questioning his decision to sign up for the cup, which is not sanctioned by the ATP and carries no ranking points, instead of resting before next month's Australian Open.

Cherkasov, who broke Sampras as he served for the match in the deciding set but then dropped his own serve, was delighted with the biggest pay day of his career.

"It is a reward for my success in the Australian and U.S. Opens," said Cherkasov, who collected \$100,000. He reached the quarter-finals at both events.

Big-serving Goran Ivanisevic, the fifth seed, and American Kevin Curren were both unhap-

py with the line judging in their first-round match and the Yugoslav picked up a warning for ball abuse after being broken on a disputed point in the second set.

But Ivanisevic, a semifinalist at Wimbledon, pulled himself together to win 7-6 7-6 and will now meet Sampras in the quarter-finals.

Edberg, who won six titles this year besides Wimbledon, was relieved that the calendar year had come to an end.

"It has been a long year and a tough year and now I can go home and take it easy for a while," he said. "I never like to lose a match but I know that I can go on holiday tomorrow."

He said lack of concentration had been his biggest problem against Chang. "I could play two points well and then I played two points badly," he said.

"It's great to get a good win, a springboard to take me positively into 1991," Chang said. "If you can beat the top people here it shows that you are going to be a threat to them."

"It took time to get back but I am determined to get up to where I used to be."

Chang's most celebrated triumph was a dramatic five-set victory over Edberg in the final at Roland Garros in 1989. But Tuesday's game was far from comparable.

Chang, who faces Frenchman Henri Leconte in the quarter-finals here, is already looking forward to a six-week break from competition. He has plans to play next month's Australian Open.

"I am very excited about the off-season. I have had a lot of first-round defeats this year. I don't settle for second best," he said.



Michael Chang in action

Maradona says he must leave Napoli

NAPLES (R) — Soccer superstar Diego Maradona attacked Napoli coach Alberto Bigon Wednesday for dropping him from the team — and said he had not alternative but to quit the Italian club.

"I think Bigon has gone mad," the fiery Argentine captain wrote in a weekly column for the Naples newspaper Roma. "Now I can leave under whatever label, as a champion, as a son of a... whatever the label is, that's fine by me," Maradona said.

"But let it not be said that only Maradona is guilty... now all that remains for me to do is to leave."

The stocky midfielder said Bigon's decision not to let him play in a Napoli-Atalanta league game last weekend because he had missed training was "the last straw."

In the past year Maradona has taken unauthorized holiday, refused to play in key matches and repeatedly failed to show up for training. He is also embroiled in a legal battle with the club.

Maradona, criticised by Italy's sports press for his off-pitch prima donna behaviour, came under fire from the Vatican's newspaper Tuesday.

The Osservatore Romano, which usually concerns itself with international and religious affairs, said in an article headlined "the decline of a star" that Argentinian Maradona was "a champion only at the stadium."

"He has not known how to carry out the responsibility expected of every well-known sports figure, (who) must be a positive example for the young."

Barcelona's Stoichkov suspended for cleating ref

MADRID, Spain (AP) — FC Barcelona leading scorer Hristo Stoichkov was suspended for 10 weeks Tuesday for protesting a call and then cleating a referee during a recent Supercup loss to Real Madrid.

But Dutch coach Johan Cruyff, who also was ejected from the match, will be on the Barcelona bench Wednesday during the return-leg match in Madrid, Spanish Soccer Federation Judge Jose Javier Forcen ruled.

Forcen said that Stoichkov, whose seven goals helped Barcelona forge a four-point league lead, intentionally stomped on referee Idelfonso Urizar Azpitarte's foot during the 1-0 loss on Dec. 5.

The Bulgarian received a two-month suspension for the physical contact, along with a two-match sanction for the protests that led to his ejection. The

rookie striker was also fined a total of 718,000 pesetas (\$7,610).

It was the maximum allowable suspension for a "violent action" under Spanish Federation rules, but fell short of the six months Stoichkov could have received if the judge had labelled it "an aggression."

The judge gave Cruyff a one-week suspension, which he served out last week.

He also opened an investigation into Barcelona's charges that Real Madrid's Mexican striker, Hugo Sanchez, made obscene gestures to the crowd at Barcelona's Camp Nou Stadium after the Supercup match.

The Supercup pits the current Spanish Cup holder against the defending league champion.

Barcelona is five points ahead of Real Madrid in the league standings after 11 rounds.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 14, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Here we go with Mercury Retrograde again but it is a good day for getting the answers you need whether at a spiritual source or through studies that are of special interest.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is the time when you can listen to your family with good results following as well as let your household in on your plans for the future.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Let those with whom you have daily contact see that you will utilize this day to put some new arrangements into effect that can make things easy.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find you have every chance now to get at those property arrangements that are so difficult during the busy days so lose no time doing so.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day to do pretty much what you please but be sure to get out socially after you have gotten your personal health in a better state.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have considerable preparations to make if you are going to have the intimate yearnings that are so a part of your nature and character.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever brings to light the friendships that could be yours in the time ahead is fine so discriminate and make selections now as you go along.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now find that you can get out in the world of action to mend any vocational or credit fences and get in right with those who are with you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A day to make sure you get off to some new places or meet some persons unknown to you before this but who can expand your own abilities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think over what arrangements you can make that will help with your bookkeeping or any other chores that will require exact attention.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Reach out to those companions you want as partners and make close contact that appeals to them so close you can be better partners.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look for lots of projects to do that put you on top of your present circumstances for today is just your time to map out some new strategy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the day for you to engage in whatever entertainment or activity that brings you the feeling that all is not dull and drab for you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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INSURANCE PAYS

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 6 4 2
♥ J 5 2
♦ J 5
♣ A 8

WEST
♠ 8 5
♥ Q 9 7 6 4
♦ 10 9 8 6 2
♣ 9

EAST
♠ J 9 7 3
♥ 10 8
♦ Q 7 4
♣ J 10 7 3

SOUTH
♠ K
♥ A K 3
♦ A K 3
♣ K Q 6 5 4 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Bridge is a humbling game. Just when you think that you have finally mastered it, you find out there's much more to learn.

South was surprised to hear North open the bidding. He checked on ace and rather conservatively settled for a small slam after learning all the top controls were accounted for.

West led a diamond and, on seeing dummy, declarer regretted his caution. After winning the opening lead, South unblocked the king of spades, crossed to the ace of clubs and cashed the table's two high spades. When the jack did not drop, declarer returned to hand with the king of clubs and got another nasty shock when West discarded on that trick. As a result, declarer had to surrender a trick in each black suit for down one.

South's line of play was correct at duplicate, but pairs rated to be in a grand slam, and if it was bid in no trump, the other declarers were going to be down two, so down one would earn an average or better score. At rubber bridge, though, declarer had a safety play available that would have virtually assured his contract. Have you spotted it?

At trick two declarer should cash the king of spades and then play a low club from both hands! No matter what the defenders return, declarer can win, cross to the ace of clubs to take the board's two master spades, then return to hand to run the good clubs. In all, declarer will take three spades, two tricks in each red suit and five club tricks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 13, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You could suddenly have an overwhelming urge to achieve a great deal so organize a course of action and attack your most pressing problems by carrying through with energy and verve.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A member of your family can really bring you much concern but if you must realize that this person has to work the problem on their own.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find usual routines are pretty boring but accept them and take care you do not lose your assets and that you carry through with promises.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you have in mind that means you are unimpaired of business could bring you considerable loss so keep attention on money matters.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can see where you can be of great service to others if you forget your own worries and think more of what you can do for others.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You find there are very few things that seem to work out as you wish so utilize this day to get rid of problems of an intimate nature you have.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you would like to do that does mean joining with friends and acquaintances requires you carefully avoid making some blunt statements.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Protect your reputation and your good name at all cost now for others are looking for someone whom they can inflict a bad rumor upon.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have so many interesting ideas you think that they will work right now but actually there is a lot to do before they can be used by you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You need to get rid of that responsibility but you have agreed to do so stop fussing and carry through as originally planned out.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the moment for you to find out what is expected of you by your usual allies and by so doing take away feeling about you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your own special hang-on in the job line seems far from you now but if you get rid of other opportunities you will be able to see them arrive.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Let that fascination that's beckoning you be a part of your life a little later while you look into all phases of it so it will be done.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I don't really like cigars. I just like to hear you whine about the smell!"

IOC keeps door ajar for S. Africa

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (R) — A fact-finding trip to South Africa next year would be vital for the country's chances of being re-admitted for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch has said.

"After that mission we will be more able to decide about the possible readmission of South Africa to the Olympic movement," the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president told a news conference.

Samaranch was speaking at

the end of a three-day IOC executive board meeting in this Norwegian town which will host the 1994 Winter Olympics.

He said the IOC had decided not to accept any new member countries until after the 1992 games because a ceiling of 10,000 athletes had been set for Barcelona.

But the decision did not apply to South Africa, he said.

"South Africa would not be a new member. If they can come back to the games again it would be a question of readmission,

not admission," he said. South Africa was expelled from the Olympic movement in 1970 because of its apartheid policies.

Samaranch said in September that political changes which have already taken place in South Africa indicated that the republic would be readmitted to the Olympics in time for the 1996 games.

The possibility of an even earlier return was raised Sunday when the IOC said it would make its first official visit to the white-ruled country for 20 years.

Torpedo Moscow reaches UEFA quarterfinals

MONACO (R) — Goals in the final 20 minutes by Yuri Tishkov and substitute Alexander Gitselov earned Torpedo Moscow a 2-1 win over Monaco and a place in the UEFA Cup quarterfinals. Torpedo won the third round tie 4-2 on aggregate.

Monaco, who had reached the last eight in their previous two

European campaigns, dominated much of the match.

But Torpedo's swift counterattacks proved fruitful in the 70th minute when Tishkov headed in a left wing cross from defender Gennadiy Grishin.

Monaco kept alive their hopes of taking the tie into extra time

when Ramon Diaz headed an 83rd-minute equalizer.

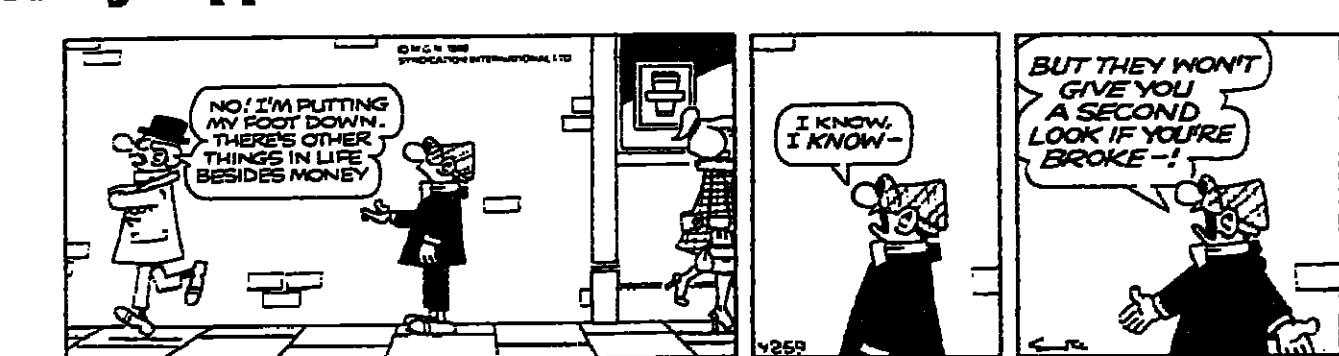
But as Monaco pushed forward in search of a second goal they were caught again on the break.

Gitselov, who had replaced Zhukov at halftime, found himself unmarked in front of goal and he sealed victory with a fine job.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp

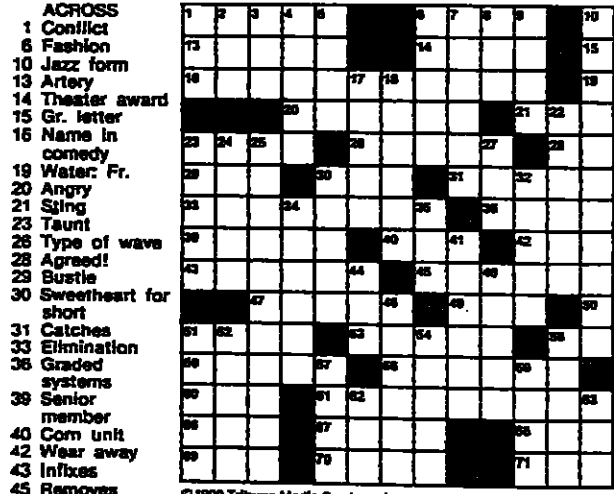


Peanuts



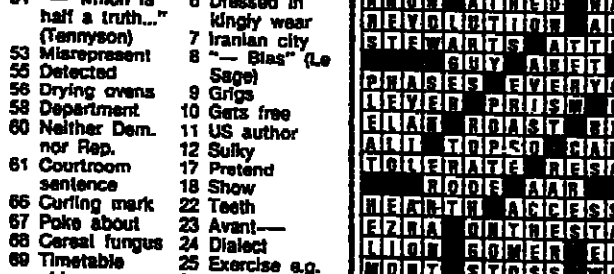
THE Daily Crossword

by Craig Schultz



ACROSS
1 Conflict
2 Fashion
3 Jazz form
10 Artery
14 Theater award
15 Gr. letter
16 Name in comedy
19 Water: Fr.
20 Angry
21 Sing
23 Taunt
26 Type of wave
28 Apartment
29 Bustle
30 Sweetheart for short
31 Catches
33 Elimination
36 Graded systems
39 Senior member
40 Corn unit
42 Wear away
43 Influe
45 Removes violently
47 Capital
49 Football pla.
50 —fl
51 "— which is half a truth..." (Tennyson)
53 Misrepresentation
55 Detected
56 Drying ovens
58 Experiment
60 Neither Dem. nor Rep.
61 Courtroom sentence
65 Curving mark
67 Puke about
68 Cereal fungus
69 Timetable
70 Spooky
71 Alliance acronym
DOWN
1 San Diego state: abbr.
2 A Costello
3 Bow
4 Stalk
5 Healthy
6 Dressed in
7 Italian city
8 "— Star" (Le Sagel)
9 Grigs
10 Gets free
11 US author
12 Sultry
13 Pretend
18 Show
22 Avast!
23 Avert
24 Dialect
25 Exercise e.g. shir
27 Vegas
30 Clock feature
32 Bakery men
34 Dredge
35 Consume
37 Draw out
38 Begin
41 Quick reply
44 Min. part
45 To the point
46 "— not to be"
51 Honesty port
52 Vessel
54 Full of vitality
55 Bot. city
57 Regal title
58 Voice notes
59 Fish eggs
62 Turk title
63 Drunkard
64 Will command

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



ACROSS
1 Conflict
2 Fashion
3 Jazz form
10 Artery
14 Theater award
15 Gr. letter
16 Name in comedy
19 Water: Fr.
20 Angry
21 Sing
23 Taunt
26 Type of wave
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Egypt arrests illegal currency dealers, confiscates dollars

CAIRO (R) — Thirteen illegal currency dealers have been arrested in Egypt in a campaign aimed at forcing the dollar down on the black market, a senior officer said Wednesday.

Assistant Interior Minister Major-General Ezzat Sonbati told Reuters "large amounts" of foreign currency had been confiscated during raids ordered last week after the dollar rose to new highs on the black market.

The gap between the official and black market rates tripled last week as the U.S. currency rose to 3.25 pounds to the dollar from around three pounds earlier this month. The official bank rate is around 2.88 pounds.

But Sonbati, head of the economic department at the ministry, said the dollar had lost most of its recent gains due to strict measures by the government. He said the dollar dropped to 3.05 pounds on the black market.

In another move aimed at attracting badly-needed hard currency into the banking system, the government banned the 16 legal foreign exchange offices in the free zone city of Port Said from dealing in the U.S. currency from one month beginning last Monday.

The volume of currency trading on the black market shrunk in recent years after Egypt partially floated the pound in line with demands for economic reforms by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The official rate is now set daily by a committee of banks and the IMF is demanding the pound's "actual flotation" in a new accord for emergency funds and credits expected to be concluded early next year.

The dollar traditionally rises on the black market in Egypt before the end of the year, but this time it hit record highs due to shortages triggered by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Tunisia to widen scope of economic reform next year

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian government said Tuesday it would press ahead in 1991 with economic reforms such as privatising state companies, liberalising imports, removing price controls and cutting back on free health and education.

Prime Minister Hamed Karoui told parliament in his annual budget speech, "we will concentrate in 1991 on... expanding the scope of reforms to include other vital sectors."

Karoui set few targets in any sector but the government's budget document says profitable state companies will become liable to privatisation for the first time.

Under the privatisation programme, some 40 companies, mainly in tourism, textiles and light manufacturing have been sold to private businessmen since 1987 for about \$100 million.

The programme marked time during 1990, partly because of government fears that business groups were manipulating the process to buy up companies at low prices.

Karoui said that by the end of 1991 the government would have abolished restrictions on imports of 75 per cent of goods, compared with the present rate of 70 per cent.

The reform is meant to help industry by cutting the costs of machinery and raw materials, while at the same time exposing them to foreign competition.

A new law would remove price controls on most goods but excluding subsidised items, Karoui added.

IMF cuts interest rate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has agreed on a cut in its interest rate that could save debtor countries about \$100 million a year.

For the week of Dec. 3 the interest rate on loans to developing countries was cut from 8.27 per cent to 7.95 per cent — a reduction worth nearly a third of a percentage point.

Corresponding changes will be made for the weeks since Nov. 1.

A third of one per cent may make little difference on a house mortgage or an automobile loan, but on loans of \$30 billion it would amount to \$100 million if the reduction is maintained for a year.

That would mean an additional \$100 million available for Third World countries to spend on imports from elsewhere — especially the United States and other industrial areas.

At the end of October the fund had about \$30 billion worth of loans outstanding, with Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela the biggest debtors among 78 borrowing countries. In Asia, India has been the biggest borrower.

The fund, with headquarters in Washington, is owned by 151 countries including the debtors. The United States is the largest contributor.

The interest that the fund charges is based on rates that five major governments — the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain and France — pay on the short-term bonds they sell.

One source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the fund's board of executive directors decided Monday to cut the rates, effective from last Nov. 1.

As usual the directors met behind closed doors and did not announce the change. They review the interest formula every three months.

In recent years the fund has lent largely to Third World countries in financial trouble. To get a loan, a government makes promises to change its policies and put itself in better condition to repay, such as by devaluing its currency, reducing subsidies on basic goods and cutting its budget.

Critics say the price of the promises can be too high: Greatly increased prices and many lost jobs in the borrowing country, which, they say, have repeatedly led to bloody riots.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, December 12,
1990

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	660.0	664.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	500.3 503.3
Pound Sterling	1281.3	1289.0	Dutch guilder	396.5 398.9
Deutschemark	447.3	450.0	Swedish crown	118.6 119.3
Swiss franc	522.8	525.9	Italian lira (for 100)	59.4 59.8
French franc	131.8	132.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	216.3 217.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.9455/65	U.S. dollar	1.6000/10
One U.S. dollar	1.4745/52	Canadian dollar	1.6220/30
	1.2597/604	Deutschemark	30.57/62
	5.0000/50	Dutch guilder	1109/1110
	131.55/65	Swiss franc	5.5600/50
	5.7900/50	French franc	5.6770/820
	371.80/372.30	Japanese yen	
		Italian lire	
		Swedish crown	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed higher for the sixth consecutive day in the heaviest turnover since October 25. The Nikkei Index closed 42.44 up at 3,999.41.

SYDNEY — Shares closed slightly higher for the first time this week, with investors spurred on by confirmation of the A\$100 group's restructuring plans. The All-Ordinaries Index ended two points up at 1,323.6.

HONG KONG — Prices closed higher on some bargain hunting. The Hang Seng Index rose 16.17 to end at 3,160.79.

SINGAPORE — Activity centred mainly on low-priced stocks and Malaysian issues. The Straits Times Industrial Index closed 7.99 points up at 1,184.69 after two days of declines.

BOMBAY — Heavy buying by state-owned institutions helped the Bombay Stock Exchange Index recover 18.85 points to 1,215.20. "There were rumours the government was unhappy with the market's downward trend and that the institutions were told to support the market," said broker Sunil Kothari.

FRANKFURT — Shares jumped through the 1,500 points barrier on the 30-share Dax Index, as early blue chip buying reversed losses. The index ended 1.7 per cent higher at 1,517.24.

PARIS — French share prices closed marginally firmer after drifting within a narrow range in a lacklustre session. Declining interest rates supported values. The CAC-40 Index rose 2.31 points, or 0.14 per cent, to 1,667.85.

ZURICH — Swiss shares ended a quiet day little changed with a marginally firmer bias. The all-share SPI closed 0.8 points firmer at 926.2.

LONDON — Shares were mostly lower after a subdued day's trading in which the FTSE-100 remained tethered to a tight 15 point range. By 1547 GMT the FTSE-100 Index was 10.9 points down at 2,154.9.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips moved higher after being stuck in a narrow range earlier. Hopes of a further interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve aided sentiment. The Dow was up about 11 to 2,597, after hitting 2,601.

Romania withdraws \$100 million from IMF

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania said Tuesday it had withdrawn around \$100 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a week after announcing it needed an injection of foreign funds to avert economic collapse.

Government spokesman Bogdan Balazs told journalists that the money, 80 million Special Drawing Rights in the IMF's unit of account, was to meet "the population's needs... through the winter and in the spring-summer period."

An IMF delegation is due in Bucharest later this month to assess the country's economic reforms and discuss a possible loan to Romania.

Anger at shortages in the shops and price hikes introduced in November as part of the reforms has fuelled recent anti-government protests in the country.

Ministers said last week that Romania's foreign reserves were virtually exhausted, requiring an infusion of foreign funds to keep the economy going.

IMF figures show Tuesday's transaction was not a loan, but a withdrawal of assets held by Romania at the fund.

Romania was issued with 76 million Special Drawing Rights in a general allocation of the currency between 1979 and 1982. IMF figures show that Romania still held this amount, worth \$106 million, in October.

Jordan to obtain \$27 million from IDB

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has awarded \$27 million in loans and grants to member states, its board of directors has announced.

Out of the total, more than \$70 million will be used to finance foreign trade operations for six countries, the board said in its announcement Tuesday evening.

The board, comprising 12 representatives and IDB President Ahmad Mohammad Ali, decided to finance imports of crude oil for Pakistan to the amount of \$20 million and Jordan to the amount of \$15 million.

Within the same line of financing, Morocco will get \$8 million to purchase crude oil from Saudi Arabia, Algeria will get \$9 million to purchase gyoel from a member state, Egypt \$7 million to buy spare parts and Tunisia \$11 million to purchase cotton, sulphur and ammonia.

The remaining money is for soft loans and outright grants.

Of this, Bangladesh will obtain a loan of \$5 million to modernise agriculture roads, Senegal will get \$3.5 million to improve dairy products, and Somalia \$2.8 million to improve agricultural productivity.

The Jordanian National Shipping Co. will obtain a loan of \$12 million to buy a new ferry to accommodate 9,000 passengers and 200 cars. It will be used on Aqaba-Nuwaiba, which was overwhelmed with Egyptian workers recently fleeing Iraq.

The IDB was set up by member states of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in 1975 to help boost economic development and social welfare of member countries and Muslim communities living in non-Muslim countries.

UAE '90 budget deficit declines

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) federal budget deficit has been cut to 667 million dirhams (\$180 million) in 1990, from 1.81 billion dirhams (\$489 million) in 1989, a UAE minister said Wednesday.

Ahmed Ibn Humaid Al Tayer, minister of state for financial and industrial affairs, said revenues stood at 14.978 billion dirhams (\$4.048 billion) and spending at 15.645 billion dirhams (\$4.22 billion).

On Tuesday Reuters erroneously reported the UAE had announced 1990 budget expenditure unchanged from 1989 but failed to disclose revenues.

The 1990 figures compare with 1989 revenues of 12.84 billion dirhams (\$3.47 billion) and spending of 14.65 billion dirhams (\$3.95 billion).

"The decline in the budget deficit is due to an increase in the country's revenues, which will be channelled to development of services like health and education," Tayer told reporters in Abu Dhabi.

U.S. foreign trade deficit soars

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. foreign trade deficit, hurt by higher oil prices and increased military spending from the Gulf crisis, rose sharply to \$22.5 billion in the July-September quarter, the government said Tuesday.

The Commerce Department said the third quarter deficit in the broadest measure of foreign trade, the current account, was up from a second quarter deficit of \$22.5 billion. It was the largest quarterly imbalance since a \$26.7 billion gap in the final three months of 1989.

The current account is considered the most important yardstick of the country's international performance because it measures not only trade in merchandise but also trade in services and investment flows between countries.

The steep 13.9 per cent widening of the deficit in the July-September quarter was viewed as especially ominous since an improving trade balance had been the only bright spot in a lacklustre economy this year.

A rising trade deficit would make the recession many economists believe has already started even steeper by removing the strength that export growth has provided to the manufacturing sector over the past several years.

"A lot of people are looking to exports as the key to moderating the severity of the recession and helping to pull the country out of the downturn," said Howard Lewis, a trade expert at the National Association of Manufacturers.

President of OPEC cautions of oil glut, slams building stocks

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — OPEC President Sadek Bousseena Wednesday cautioned that current high levels of crude production could leave the world flooded with oil and markets in turmoil once the Gulf crisis ends.

Bousseena opened the winter conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) by criticising consuming nations for using the extra oil now on the market to build up their stocks.

"This is clearly an ill-conceived move," he said in a speech to ministers representing the 13 producing nations.

If a peaceful solution is found to the crisis, "then the world will be awash with oil and we shall be faced with another decade of turmoil," said Bousseena, who is the Algerian minister.

Had the consuming nations dipped into some of their stocks to make up for the loss of embargoed Kuwait and Iraqi oil, he said, the recent wide fluctuations in prices might have been avoided.

"These consumers, however, have remained reluctant to adopt such measures, pushing OPEC to extreme levels of output," he said.

The U.S. government has sold off only a small portion of its reserves.

The ministers met for about two hours in formal session at OPEC headquarters in Vienna. They scheduled informal talks later in the day at the luxury hotel where most were staying.

Despite worries about high production, the ministers were unlikely to try to restrain production of OPEC member countries.

President of OPEC cautions of oil glut, slams building stocks

Since the Iraqi occupation, oil prices have surged as high as \$41 a barrel on worries that war would break out in the oil-rich Gulf region. In recent days, they have slipped to about \$25 a barrel on prospects of a peaceful settlement and an oil glut.

The conference was the first time all 13 oil-producing representatives had been represented at a meeting since the invasion. Iraq and Libya did not show up for the last meeting during which the quota system was suspended.

There were no sparks between Iraq and Kuwait, seated next to each other in the conference room's alphabetical arrangement.

Ramzi Salman Abdul Husain, director of Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation, represented Baghdad. He said little to reporters, although he did say Iraq could get its crude production back up to strong levels "as soon as we want."

"None of the facilities are damaged," he said.

Iraq is estimated to be producing a mere 10,000 barrels a day, compared to earlier levels of more than three million barrels.

OPEC members are: Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh backed off his demand Tuesday that the countries cut output immediately to get down to 22.5 million barrels a day. Wednesday, he said the cutback should be made "not at this time... after the crisis."

Shortly after Iraq invaded fellow OPEC member Kuwait, the group suspended its quota system so that each member could pump as much as possible. A U.N. trade embargo has cut off

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Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571

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Gorbachev sets Soviet political agenda firmly on law and order

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has set the political agenda firmly on law and order, pledging to strengthen the security forces, and the KGB has vowed to prevent the country's collapse.

Gorbachev, under pressure from conservatives to tackle acute food shortages, rising crime and nationalism in the republics, renewed his commitment in parliament Tuesday to enhance the role of the armed forces.

He also defended his decision to replace his popular interior minister, Vadim Bakatin, last month with a former top official of the KGB security service, Boris Pugo, and a prominent army officer as his deputy.

Further evidence of a tough new line came from KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov, who made a dramatic television speech using hardline language almost unknown in the era of Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

He said the security service was committed to preserving the country's democratic changes, but that groups seeking to undermine public order were being helped from abroad.

"The threat of the Soviet Union's collapse has emerged, national chauvinism is being fuelled and mass disorder and violence are being provoked."

"The KGB has acted and

will act as a barrier against those forces which seek to push the country towards chaos," he said, adding that he was speaking at Gorbachev's behest.

Restoring public order was also clearly on the minds of top Communist Party officials who ended a two-day session aimed at boosting sagging party morale after electoral defeats pushed them out of office in at least five republics.

Public speeches from the Central Committee plenary session indicated there has been sharp debate on public order and the economic plight of Soviet consumers.

Differences also emerged on Gorbachev's proposal to create a new, devolved federation enshrined in a "union treaty," although members approved a resolution on its basic concepts. Vladimir Ivashko, Gorbachev's deputy within the party, commented on the plenum to the independent news agency Interfax: "Of course there were differences of opinion. How can you carry on political activity if you are afraid of sharp statements. This is a normal development. We are simply not used to it."

Gorbachev, in a brief intervention at the end of the meeting, complained that the party had been too preoccupied with internal issues and had largely ignored the issues of the

outside world. TASS news agency reported.

"I cannot get away from the impression that there is an attempt to push us into permanent discussion of internal party questions, to introspection instead of practical matters at this time of great responsibility."

In a hardhitting speech to the opening of the plenum Monday, Gorbachev launched one of his most bitter attacks yet against separatists, calling them the Soviet Union's worst evil.

Many Communists, he said, had "lost their bearings" or "capitulated" to nationalists and now had to regroup.

Meanwhile the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Kirghizia has approved a sovereignty declaration giving it full control over its natural resources and has dropped the words "Soviet" and "socialist" from its formal name.

The Communist Party daily Pravda said Wednesday the sovereignty vote by the republic's parliament followed a "long and stormy debate."

"It recognises political pluralism, the inherent right of the people of the people to own, exploit and to dispose of all the riches on the territory of their sovereign state," Pravda said.

The daily said the parliament also approved a new name — The Republic of Kirghizia. Its former name was the Kirghiz

Soviet Socialist Republic.

Kirghizia, an isolated Turkic-Mongol region in the Tien-Shan Mountains bordering China, is the latest republic to declare control over its resources in what some critics in Moscow have bitterly called a "parade of sovereignty."

Such declarations have largely been aimed at barring the powerful central ministries in Moscow from plundering what remains of the republic's natural resources.

In a separate development the Georgian legislature voted Tuesday to abolish the autonomy of a separatist minority within the republic's borders, news reports said, setting up a new confrontation in the region.

The law adopted by the recently elected Georgian Supreme Soviet legislature would end 68 years of autonomy for Ossetia, a small enclave in the northern part of the southern republic that has demanded greater autonomy since the rise of Georgian nationalism.

Ossetia is one of 20 autonomous republics in the Soviet Union that have limited jurisdiction over their affairs and delegate many functions to their host republics. A handful have declared themselves full republics, along with other ethnic groups that fear rising nationalism by republic leaders.

Ershad arrested

DHAKA (R) — Ousted Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad was arrested Wednesday and a government statement said he would face trial on charges ranging from gold smuggling to nepotism and plundering money from the impoverished country.

Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 military coup, was arrested by police and soldiers at his house in Dhaka's military garrison area where he had been living since his resignation last week.

He was taken to the former British High Commissioner's residence in the Gulshan diplomatic district.

"He has been placed under solitary confinement," a police official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. "There was no fuss at all and the former president gave in quietly."

Ershad stepped down and transferred power to Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmad, the former chief justice, following years of violent opposition activity by 22 political parties backed by students, workers and professional groups.

These opponents had demanded he stand trial for running a corrupt and illegal government. A special tribunal headed by a high court judge would be set up soon to try Ershad on charges ranging from gold smuggling, nepotism and laundering state funds for his personal accounts abroad, a government official said.

As reports of Ershad's arrest spread, curious Dhaka residents lined roads to the army headquarters. They were disappointed as the fallen general had been whisked away hours earlier.

"I wish I could see the shamed dictator," said one young man standing outside the garrison.

"The bird has changed cages," another said. Ahmad said his prime job was to restore law and order and hold parliamentary elections within three months to restore democracy to this impoverished South Asian country of 110 million people.

Opposition leaders, including Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party head Begum Khaleda Zia have demanded stern punishment for Ershad.

"I demand immediate trial and exemplary punishment of Ershad for the sake of justice so that no one in future will dare to trample people's rights and grab power at gunpoint," Khaleda said Monday.

"We have plenty of evidence to prove Ershad's guilt," she told a party meeting.

Ershad was conspiring to stage a comeback, possibly by staging another coup with the help of military officers loyal to him, political leaders said. They demanded his bank accounts be frozen and wealth confiscated.

Ershad fuelled public fears by saying he had no apologies to make for his rule and would fight elections to regain the presidency.

Police Tuesday put former Interior Minister Mahmudul Hasan, a close ally of Ershad under house arrest. Ershad's other leading colleagues have gone into hiding.

Albanian activists plan first independent party

VIENNA (R) — Activists seeking multiparty democracy in Albania, Europe's last bastion of hardline communism, said Wednesday they would found a broad-based party committed to human rights and European integration.

Intellectual Gramoz Paschko said the creation of the new "Democratic Party" would be declared at a rally on Tirana University campus at four p.m. (1500 GMT), one day after the Communist leadership said it would legalise opposition parties.

The new party will be the first non-Communist political organisation in Albania since the country's late Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha came to power in 1944 and crushed all potential opposition.

"I'm very happy that we are able to show to the world that we are able to move to a democratic system without violence," Paschko, a 35-year-old economist at the University of Tirana, said by telephone from the Albanian capital.

He said the party would be open to all sectors of society and would contest parliamentary elections set for Feb. 10. The Communist Party Central Committee dropped its steadfast opposition to political pluralism Tuesday and began a shakeup of top party and government officials. Five of the 11 members of the Communist Party politburo were sacked.

The watershed decision, one year after popular uprisings swept Communists from power in the rest of Eastern Europe, followed an unprecedented pro-democracy strike by university students and clashes between police and protesters.

Paschko said students at Tirana University ended a three-day lecture boycott Wednesday and began returning to classes. He named the students' leader as first year philosophy student Azem Hajdari, 28. Paschko said he himself and 45-year-old cardiologist Sali Beishia, were acting as advisers to the students' movement.

Pakistan refuses to sign nuclear pact without India

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif says he will not open the country's secret nuclear plans to inspection or sign a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty without India.

Speaking at a rally in Karachi Tuesday night he said he would not succumb to U.S. pressure on Pakistan's nuclear programme for the sake of getting back American military and economic aid suspended in October.

Denying that foreign teams would be allowed to inspect Pakistan's main Kahuta nuclear plant outside Islamabad, Sharif said the country would not compromise its principles.

"The time has come that we stand on our own feet and the nation should be prepared to offer sacrifices for the same," he said.

"The donors should keep their aid with them. We do not need such aid."

Pakistan has offered to sign the non-proliferation treaty but only if its traditional foe India agrees to sign too.

All \$564 million in U.S. military and economic aid earmarked for this year was automatically suspended on Oct. 1 when President George Bush failed to certify to the U.S. Congress that Pakistan was not trying to make nuclear weapons.

Medellin, Colombia (R) — Colombia's cocaine lords freed German journalist Hero Buss after he spent more than three months in captivity as a pawn in the country's drug war.

Buss, kidnapped on Aug. 30 with five Colombian journalists, walked into the offices of El Colombiano newspaper in Medellin after his captors released him from a car outside. The newspaper's editor, Juan Gomez Martinez, has been involved in efforts to free the kidnapped journalists.

"They told me five times before they were going to free me. When they told me this time, I thought it was a joke again."

Buss told a radio station minutes after his release. Buss, a Colombian-based reporter who works for several German newspapers and radio stations, is one of eight journalists kidnapped by the drug traffickers since the end of August.

He has said he wants to spend a short time in Canada to see his three small children and prepare videotaped campaign records for his defence against the slander accusation.

Tyminski was interrogated for 3½ hours by a prosecutor Tuesday on suspicion of slandering Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

If convicted under a law passed in 1932 by the authoritarian government of Marshal Jozef Pilsudski, he would face a jail sentence of between six months and eight years.

The prosecutor general began proceedings against Tyminski after he said during the campaign that Mazowiecki was betraying Poland by selling Polish companies cheaply to foreigners.

Tyminski was defiant as he emerged from the interrogation on Tuesday saying he was being allowed to leave Poland on a \$100,000 surety but would return on Jan. 5 to face possible prosecution.

"I repeated what I said before," he told journalists. "I cannot change the words I spoke."

"Go back where you came from," shouted a group of bystanders. "Out with communism," they said, referring to accusations by Walesa that

Korean premiers trade differing proposals

SEOUL (R) — The two Korean prime ministers presented differing views of Korean reconciliation Wednesday in talks culminated by the escape of North Korean reporters from their southern minders.

Meeting on the eve of South Korean President Roh Tae-woo's departure for Moscow, a trip officials and diplomats say has irritated the North Koreans, the two sides restated prior positions in a two-hour formal session.

Visiting North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-Muk again outlined Pyongyang's demand for a non-aggression declaration between the two Koreas, still legally at war from the 1950-53 Korean conflict.

His southern counterpart, Kang Young-Hoon, repeated Seoul's contention that confidence-building measures, such as increased travel, communications and trade, and reunion of separated family members must be undertaken first.

"North Koreans are not very sincere," Kim Hyong-Ki, a spokesman for Seoul's South-North Dialogue Office, said.

"In short, there has been no change in either their attitude towards the talks or the content of their proposal," he said.

Yon arrived in Seoul Tuesday for the third round of discussions with Kang, the highest level inter-Korean dialogue

since the peninsula was divided in 1945.

The 63-year-old Yon arrived with an 89-member entourage including 50 reporters, at least 20 of whom eluded their South Korean minders Wednesday afternoon and creamed through Seoul.

Some went to the home of a jailed dissident and were served lunch by the inmate's mother. Others visited a university and a market.

South Korean officials were not amused. They archly reminded the North Koreans the agreement for the talks provided that visitors were to be under the control of the host country and said they would lodge a protest.

ANC chief arrives in S. Africa today

JOHANNESBURG (R) — African National Congress (ANC) President Oliver Tambo returns to South Africa from 30 years in exile Thursday, to bolster anti-apartheid campaigns mired in violence and wrangles over political reform.

Tambo, 73, still frail after suffering a stroke last year, is assured of an ecstatic welcome from supporters on his arrival at Johannesburg Airport from Zambia and at a rally in Soweto township Sunday.

But jubilation at the homecoming of one of ANC deputy President Nelson Mandela's closest comrades could dissolve in painful soul-searching at an historic meeting of ANC leaders and activists this weekend, political analysts say.

Tambo is likely to hear ordinary members at the ANC consultative conference starting Friday express unhappiness with the way the country's main opposition group has handled itself since being legalised in February.

The three-day meeting is the first full ANC conference since South Africa in three decades. It is aimed at charting strategy for negotiations with the white minority government on scrapping apartheid and giving blacks the vote.

GDANSK, Poland (Agencies) — Poland's President-Elect Lech Walesa stepped down Wednesday as chairman of Solidarity, the post he has held since the trade union was created 10 years ago.

"I present my resignation today because such is the course of events," Walesa, who prepares to take over as the president of Poland, told the Solidarity's national commission meeting.

Walesa became the union's undisputed head after leading an August 1980 strike in the Gdansk shipyard that gave birth to Solidarity, the first free trade union in the former Soviet Bloc.

Walesa proposed veteran activist Bogdan Borusewicz as his temporary replacement until a union congress expected within two months elects a new leader.

Borusewicz declined, saying he did not want to be considered for the job.

According to the Solidarity statutes only one of the union's two deputy chairmen can take over before the congress.

They are Lech Kaczynski, a senator, and Stefan Jurczak, leader of the powerful Solidarity chapter in the southern city of Krakow.

The National Commission was expected to nominate one of the two men later Wednesday.

Walesa, following the path of Polish kings, swore an oath Tuesday before the country's most revered icon — the Black

Shuttle returns in good condition

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) — Columbia, the oldest space shuttle, came back from its 10th mission in good condition but with no quick answers to its list and plumbing woes. A NASA official has said.

Columbia dropped out of orbit a day early to beat a rainy weather forecast, and touched down Monday, ending its astronomy mission after nine days. On Tuesday, there was no sign of the rain.

The origin of lint that fouled cooling systems for two computer needs investigation, but it likely was inside the devices before launch and not from the shuttle interior, said Columbia flow director Bascom Murrah.

"The orbiter cooling system looked clean," he said. "If there was debris in there, we think that that probably came with the panel when it was given to us to install in the orbiter."

Shuttle cleaning procedures were reviewed and everything was "up to snuff," Murrah said. The lint was suspected to have caused failure of two computer terminals used to control the \$150-million Astro Observatory, a group of ultraviolet and X-ray telescopes in Columbia's payload bay.

Much of the aiming of the telescopes had to be done by the crew's astronaut astronomers using a joystick and keyboard.

Only 135 of 250 planned targets were observed, although that still amounted to a wealth of data about stars, galaxies, quasars, supernovas and a comet.

Ultraviolet and X-ray radiation from such objects is blocked by the Earth's atmosphere. No brake problems were observed when Columbia landed and the thermal tiles that protect it from the heat of re-entry into the atmosphere were in good-to-excellent condition, Murrah said.

Television pictures of Columbia on the runway showed blotches on its underside, but Murrah said the shuttle was just showing its age.

7 fishermen missing as gales batter North Sea

LONDON (R) — Seven fishermen were missing and feared dead after storms swept the North Sea Wednesday, forcing oil companies to evacuate some rigs battered by high winds and giant waves.

Scottish coastguards said three rescue helicopters were sent to an area 30 miles off the Shetland Islands to search for the seven crew members of an unidentified fishing vessel which capsized in winds of 80 knots (92 miles per hour) and waves 20 metres high.

Some oil rigs were loosened from their anchors and oil companies said non-essential staff were being evacuated.

Amoco Oil Company said it believed four men aboard the Glomar Arctic III semi-submersible rig were injured when a freak wave hit it. A spokesman said 35 crew remained on board but 38 non-essential staff had been evacuated.

British Petroleum (BP) said its Santa Fe 135 rig lost three of its eight anchors and was drifting 150 miles northeast of Aberdeen, Scotland. It evacuated 40 of its 69 staff.

BP said that drilling rig Ben Wrackie had lost one of its anchors but there were no plans to evacuate the 68 men on board.

"No decision has yet been made on whether or not the staff will be taken to a neighbouring platform or brought back to Aberdeen," he said.

A Danish exploration rig carrying 56 men was adrift off Western Norway but the Norwegian Rescue Service said there was no danger to the mostly British crew.

The semi-submersible rig Maersk Vinlander broke away while under tow from the British North Sea sector to the Norwegian port of Stavanger where it is to undergo modifications.

Shetland coastguards said fears for the missing fishermen mounted after their life raft was found empty.

Murder trial highlights land conflicts in Brazil

XAPURI, Brazil (AP) — The trial of the two accused killers of rain forest defender Chico Mendes has drawn world attention to a centuries-old battle over land that has resulted in thousands of deaths in Brazil.

Although the 1998 killing of Mendes, the 11-year-old rubber-tapper organiser who led a movement to stop destruction of the Amazon Forest made headlines, gunmen routinely kill Brazilian peasants over land disputes with impunity.

In the first 11 months this year, 60 people have died — most of them landless peasants — and 103 others injured in battles over land, according to the Roman Catholic-affiliated pastoral commission.

Those killings resulted in only two convictions, says Amnesty International, the human rights organisation.

On trial for the Mendes killing are a cattle rancher and his son, who opposed Mendes' movement they saw as obstructing

their plans to clear the forest for pasture.

To many people in the United States and Europe, Mendes became a sort of "ecological martyr" because he was killed at a time of rising world concern for the rapidly disappearing Amazon.

In Brazil, however, Mendes was more a symbol in a centuries-old struggle for agrarian reform that pits rich, powerful landowners against native Indians and the rural poor who seek collective ownership and use of the forest.

"This is not simply a trial of two gunmen who killed an ecologist," said Sueli Bellato, one of five attorneys prosecuting Mendes' alleged killers.

"On trial are two ranchers who represent a model of agrarian development that concentrates land in the hands of a rich few and produces farm slaves out of the region's poor," she said in an interview.

COLUMN

Trumps get divorce

NEW YORK (R) — It was the most talked-about marriage in America. The couple did not even need first names. They were simply the Trumps and almost everything they owned — the yacht, the tower, the casino — seemed to bear that name. Their 13-year marriage ended in a tearful 15-minute divorce Tuesday, but the talking is not going to stop. Now the fight will be over who gets all those things named Trump. Ivana, a former Czechoslovak ski champ and model, wants half of Donald Trump's real estate and casino empire. He wants to give only \$10 million and experts wonder whether she will have to get in line behind Trump's creditors. A Manhattan divorce court judge granted the Trumps an uncontested divorce on the grounds of his "cruel and inhuman" treatment of her, ending a 10-month marital rift that started when he began a highly-publicised relationship with model Marla Maples. Ivana left the court in tears.

In court papers, Ivana accused her husband of adultery with Maples. Sources close to Donald Trump say that Ivana is "going to be lucky to walk away with the kitchen sink." They predict a battle royal in the divorce court with "the Donald" trying to get her to abide by a nuptial agreement she signed.

Solzhenitsyn rejects prize

NEW YORK (R) — Exiled Soviet writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn has rejected the Russian state literature prize for The Gulag Archipelago, a highly-praised account of Soviet prison camps. In a statement issued through his publisher, Solzhenitsyn offered his gratitude to the committee on Russian state awards, but said it would be "unthinkable and impossible to accept a state award for this book." Solzhenitsyn marked his 72nd birthday Tuesday.

Brando's son to go on trial on Jan. 14

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — The murder trial of Marlon Brando's son was scheduled for January, although a defence lawyer said Brando's daughter, a key prosecution witness, is confined under a suicide watch in a Tahiti hospital. Christian Brando made a brief court appearance Tuesday and answered, "yes," when Superior Court Judge Robert Thomas asked if he agreed to have his murder trial postponed to Jan. 14. The trial was first set for Nov. 5. A hearing is expected later this month to determine whether another judge will request French assistance in returning Christian Brando's 20-year-old sister from the Polynesian territory to testify in his trial. Defence Attorney Robert Shapiro told reporters Tuesday that Cheyenne Brando, who was with her brother in the hours before he shot her Tahitian lover, has been placed in isolation. The trial date was set after Miss Brando's mother was named as her guardian.

Tehran stays world's most expensive city

LONDON (AP) — The cost of living rose faster in London and Zurich than other major cities in the past six months but Tehran easily remains the world's most expensive city. According to a survey, Tokyo was a distant second to the Iranian capital in the cost of living. The weaker dollar further widened the cost-of-living gap between the expensive cities of Europe and the major cities of North America, said the survey from Business International, a business information company. All Western European cities have become more expensive, but the sharpest increases came in Britain and Switzerland, the company said. However, the Scandinavian capitals remain Europe's costliest cities. Business International twice a year compares the cost of maintaining a Western standard of living in more than 100 cities. The surveys cover grocery items, alcoholic beverages, household supplies, personal care products, clothing and footwear, utility costs, domestic help, recreation and transportation. It calculated its index by comparing average prices from each city to prices in New York, which it used as a base city with a score of 100. New York ranked 21st in the latest survey.